



President summons Shevardnadze to White House

Reagan talks tough in row over Danilooff

● Mr Shevardnadze was called for White House talks to try to prevent greater damage to superpower relations
● The US envoy at the Stockholm Security Conference was furious about Washington press leaks
● President Reagan remonstrated with Mr Shevardnadze about the detention in Moscow of Nicholas Danilooff
● *Forrest* bitterly attacked Sir Geoffrey Howe for comparing the Danilooff affair with the Chernobyl disaster

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan unexpectedly called Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, to the Oval Office yesterday to remonstrate forcefully about the continued detention of the American journalist, Mr. Nicholas Danilooff, on "trumped up" spying charges.

The unscheduled encounter came at the end of the opening session of two days of critical talks between Mr. George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, and Mr. Shevardnadze, who are trying to avoid even greater damage to superpower relations caused by the Danilooff affair.

The two ministers met with only their interpreters for nearly three hours while their respective delegations sat in an ante-room awaiting a plenary session. Mr. Shultz then telephoned the white house and asked if Mr. Reagan wanted to meet Mr. Shevardnadze immediately.

The White House said Mr. Reagan planned to give some "straight talk" on the Danilooff case, and to underscore human rights issues when he



Mr Alexander Belonogov, Soviet Ambassador to the UN, condemning the US in New York yesterday.

addresses the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Monday.

He is now obviously determined to demonstrate a tougher stand in order to placate right-wing Republicans who have complained bitterly that the Administration has attempted to demonstrate its readiness to be flexible in arms negotiations. First, it indicated that it may be prepared to accept a Soviet suggestion that only a token number of intermediate-range missiles be kept in Europe. The limit suggested by Moscow is far below earlier US proposals to allow 420 medium-range nuclear warheads. The US is also believed to be willing to make new proposals on strategic and space weapons.

Additionally, as arms talks resumed in Geneva on Thursday, some officials said the Administration has decided to back away from a proposal for an immediate 50 per cent cut in US and Soviet ballistic



Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze (right), the Soviet Foreign Minister, arriving yesterday at Andrews Air Force Base to be met by the US Ambassador to Moscow, Mr. Arthur Hartman.

Express trains in head-on crash

Two passenger express trains crashed head-on on the Liverpool to London main line near Rugeley, Staffordshire, last night.

At least one person was feared dead and many were trapped with serious injuries when the 5.20pm Liverpool to Euston and 4pm Euston to Manchester trains collided at the village of Colwich.

Fifty firemen in 10 appliances rushed to the scene of the collision and began attempting to cut victims from the wreckage.

A fire brigade spokesman said: "There are a large number of people with major injuries, and an unspecified number with serious injuries, and there are people trapped."

Breakthrough for US scientists Drug brings hope for Aids victims

From Paul Valley, New York

Scientists working in 12 medical centres throughout the United States have reported a significant breakthrough in the treatment of the disease Aids.

An experimental drug, azidothymidine, known as AZT, has had such dramatic success in trials at the 12 centres that the experimental programme is to be terminated. All eligible Aids patients will now be given the drug.

Public health officials and representatives of the drug company that developed AZT emphasized yesterday that the new anti-viral agent did not immediately offer help to all those dying of the disease.

"AZT is not a cure for Aids. Although the study results show great promise for prolonging life, uncertainties remain," Dr. Robert Winkler of the National Institutes of Health said.

But the success of the trials is such that many doctors taking part raised ethical questions about whether it was right to withhold the drug from those patients receiving placebo tablets in the tests.

The trials have used patients with pneumocystis pneumonia (PCP), one of the most common causes of death among people whose disease-fighting capacity has been destroyed by the Aids virus.

Since April, 280 patients have received drugs from the research team at Burroughs-Wellcome, which is doing the development work, but 140 of them were a control group who received placebos. The lives of those treated with AZT have been prolonged considerably.

Now the drug will be made available, under clinical supervision, to all Aids patients suffering from PCP. Dr. David Barry, Vice-president for research at Burroughs, said: "This is estimated to involve 6,000 people. As yet patients in whom Aids manifests itself in other ways, such as Kaposi's Sarcoma, a skin cancer, are not to be included. Aids has been diagnosed in 24,000 Americans, about half

of whom have died. But scientists suspect that the virus now infects as many as two million people who have not yet displayed any symptoms. Advances in treatment have been limited to dealing with the secondary diseases that Aids causes. The new drug is the first to deal with the Aids virus more directly.

The most recent research, which indicates that Aids may be a number of viruses working in combination, confirms that when it enters the body it seeks to inject itself into certain cells, chiefly the immune defence cells known as T cells. There it commandeers each cell's machinery to make copies of itself, eventually killing the cell. The copies then invade other cells.

AZT is a fraudulent thymidine which acts in a similar way. But its crucial difference is that it can link up at only one end of a genetic chain. When it is added to a lengthening chain of reproduction by the Aids virus it suddenly terminates the chain.

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Accident legacy 'greater safety'

By Peter Davenport

Improved safety standards will be the legacy of the Manchester air disaster. Mr. Colin Marshall, the chief executive of British Airways said yesterday at the end of the inquest on the 55 passengers and crew who died.

British Airways had introduced many of the changes of recommendation outlined during the 10-day inquest in Manchester, he said.

Mr. Marshall was speaking after the jury had returned verdicts of accidental death on all 53 passengers and two stewards who died on an August 22 last year when smoke and flames engulfed a British Airways Boeing 737 after a "catastrophic explosion" in the port engine.

The Pratt and Whitney engine involved had been and still is regarded as one of the most reliable in the world. The rupture of a combustor can which triggered the events was unprecedented.

Mr. Marshall added: "The coroner explained that the engine failure in the Manchester

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ter accident was more than a many millions to one chance."

He added: "However, we have noted his statement that there is no blame that can be attached to anyone for the accident particularly with regard to the state of knowledge at that time."

Mr. Marshall outlined six changes made to the fleets of British Airways and its subsidiary British Airtours:

● Replacement: combustion chambers on Boeing 737 aircraft are all new units.

● Pilots will stop aircraft on the runway to assess a problem, rather than attempt to pull clear. Pilots have also been told to take into consideration any wind and its possible effect on a fire.

● Modifications have been made to doors to make sure the jamming which occurred at Manchester cannot happen again.

● British Airways engineers have pioneered methods of examining combustion chambers on Boeing 737s using X-ray and Borescope tests.

● The airline was the first to order fire-blocking fabric for aircraft seats.

● The airline is continuing to work for a design for passenger smoke hoods.

During the inquest evidence was given that Pratt & Whitney, the engine makers, had issued letters about possible problems in the combustion chambers of the JT8D. Airline officials told the coroner that they had believed those letters referred not to their engines but to an earlier unmodified version.

● It is Kilroy-Silk's own, intimate diary of the plotting, the threats and the patronage that gave Merseyside politics

● how he reached the decision to resign his seat

● how he felt betrayed by Parliamentary colleagues

● how his supporters faced physical intimidation

● how a fellow MP offered him the option of standing down or being blacklisted

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Next week

EXCLUSIVE

My fight against Militant:
by Robert Kilroy-Silk



Starting on Monday, The Times carries the first authentic account of how the Militant Tendency tried to oust Robert Kilroy-Silk from his safe Labour constituency. Day by day, his diary shows:

● how a fellow MP offered him the option of standing down or being blacklisted

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Portfolio Gold

● There is £12,000 to be won today in The Times Portfolio Gold competition, the £8,000 weekly prize and the £4,000 daily.

● Yesterday's £4,000 prize was won outright by Mr P. Sloane, of Farnborough, Hants. Details, page 3.

● Portfolio lists, pages 20 and 25; rules and how to play, page 35.

Loan rate fears hit shares

Growing fears of higher interest rates hit share prices on the London stock market yesterday.

The FT-30 share index fell 10.5 to 1,269.1, while the broader-based FT-SE 100 lost 13.8 to 1,600.4.

Some City economists fear a rise of up to 1 per cent in bank base rates. The pound rose by ½ cent to \$1.47

Government to act after three social workers die

By Jill Sherman

After the deaths of three social workers in the past 18 months the Government is to call a conference on the safety of social service department staff.

In addition the Association of Directors of Social Services is to produce guidelines which all local authorities could follow and set up a working party to collect information on the problem.

The death of the Bexhill social worker, Frances Bertridge, at the hands of her client's boy friend last month has provoked widespread concern among social service departments for the safety of their staff.

At the Social Services Directors annual conference in Cardiff yesterday, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, announced that the Government conference would bring together managers and staff from the NHS, social security and personal social services.

"We have a responsibility to the caring profession to ensure that they have the best available protection. Those who help the public are entitled to help from the public. The community has a duty to protect those who serve it," Mr Fowler said.

The problem was found throughout the caring services, particularly in accident and emergency departments and psychiatric wards, he said.

"The Government fully recognizes the importance of combating violence against staff, whatever their occupation."

He emphasized the need for greater security in all health service premises and said the Department of Health aimed to train social security staff to identify potentially violent situations and to take steps to prevent assault.

The guidelines announced

by the Association of Directors of Social Services yesterday are likely to be issued in the next two months. They could include personal alarms for social workers and a recommendation that female workers should not visit clients on their own.

Mr Fowler also announced that a fundamental review of personal social services will be published later this year to complement initiatives already undertaken in social security and primary health care. The Green Paper initially promised in 1984 would appear in the next few months, he said.

Mr Fowler emphasized that the new document would need to take into account proposals in the Social Security Act passed in July and the White Paper on primary health care now under discussion. But he dismissed speculation that the Green Paper would include compulsory tendering of local authority ancillary services, meals-on-wheels or domiciliary services, following similar moves in the health service.

"This is not something under consideration," Mr Fowler said. He made it clear that the Green Paper would put further emphasis on community care, a responsibility shared by health, social security and personal social services. Community care policies had already significantly improved the lives of many people who would otherwise have spent years in institutions cut off from normal lives.

The number of children in long-stay hospitals had dropped from 7,100 in 1969 to 590 in 1985.

Mr Fowler also reassured social workers that resources would be provided to retain the present level of social worker training.



The Princess of Wales with Commander Toby Elliott, on the conning tower of the nuclear powered submarine, HMS Trafalgar, last month. The royal visit is one of the highlights of *In Private, In Public: The Prince and Princess of Wales*, an ITN programme, being shown tomorrow and Monday (Photograph: Tim Graham/ITN).

Four jailed for savage attack

Three youths who carried out a "brutal and savage attack" on a young British Transport policeman were sentenced to eight years' youth custody yesterday. A fourth, who is 21, was sent to prison for eight years.

The four were all convicted of causing grievous bodily harm with intent to police Constable Neil Harvey, aged 28. He suffered multiple skull and facial fractures after the attack and had to be put on a life support machine.

The four youths were all cleared after a 13-day trial of attempted murder and of causing grievous bodily harm with intent to resist arrest.

The four were: Alan Richardson, aged 19, and his brother Colin, aged 18, both of Beeston Road, Nottingham; David James, aged 21, who was jailed; and John Melnikenko, aged 19, both of Gregory Street, Lenton, Nottingham.

Mr Brian Appleby, QC, for the prosecution, said that PC Harvey, married with a young son, was attacked while on early morning patrol in Castle Meadow Road, Nottingham.

The youths were told by Mr Justice Tucker at Nottingham Crown Court: "This was a brutal and sustained attack. All four youths pleaded not guilty to all three charges. They claimed that they made false confessions under police pressure."

Acid rain 35 years to end pollution

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

Britain's share of acid rain from power stations will dwindle almost to nothing in the next 35 years, Lord Marshall of Goring, chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, predicted yesterday.

"After the turn of the century our existing stations will be replaced by new stations that do not emit sulphur," he explained.

Mr William Waldegrave, a Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, said that it was technically possible to conquer acid rain and the damage it caused. "There is light at the end of the tunnel on this," Both men emphasized, at a

London conference organized by the National Society for Clean Air, that elimination of acid from soil and fresh water would take a long time and that acid rain originating from power stations was not the only cause of damage.

"People in Scandinavia have told me that it is not the acidic deluge that is killing trees," Mr Waldegrave said. "It is something much more complicated than that."

Lord Marshall said that recent research had supported early board scepticism about the extent of acid rain damage and the size of Britain's share of it. He conceded that acid rain falling on acid soil killed

fish, but was sceptical about links claimed between acid rain and damage to trees in Scandinavia.

But there might be a link between ozone and damage to trees. "We do not regard that as proven," he said. We notice the possibility that acid mist might be a culprit, and we are suspending judgement on that." Once the culprit was found, Lord Marshall added, the soil acid would not dwindle quickly.

"Sulphur has been building up in the soil for decades, or even centuries. What we have to face now is that the acidity might take decades to leach out completely."

IRA informer 'a gift horse'

A police officer explained at the Central Criminal Court yesterday why he continued to "run" an IRA informer although the material he was passing on contained lies.

Det Supt Alan Law, head of Lancashire Special Branch, told the jury: "We do not look at a gift horse in the mouth. Informers in the IRA are very scarce."

Mr Law said he also became aware that Raymond O'Connor, aged 50, a petty criminal, was "given to drink."

But although they treated Mr O'Connor with caution, neither his drinking nor his 15

convictions deterred the undercover officers from using his services.

On trial is Thomas Maguire, aged 27, who, according to Mr O'Connor, the main prosecution witness, acted as go-between in a plot to blow up the Eagle and Child Inn, used by soldiers and their families from the Army camp at Weston, Blackpool.

Mr Maguire pleads not guilty to conspiring between January 1982 and April 1983 with Patrick Magee, Patrick Murray and others to cause an explosion in the United Kingdom.

Mr Law, who was being

Women to keep up chain vigil at dump

By Trudi McIntosh

A group of Lincolnshire housewives said yesterday they will remain chained to a tractor blocking the main entrance to the proposed nuclear waste site at Fulbeck until police unpadlock them.

One of the protesters, Mrs Rachel Toynce, aged 21, from Welbourne, who is six months pregnant, said she had volunteered to help to maintain a chained vigil as a last resort to delay test drilling equipment being delivered to the site.

She said she will remain chained to the tractor at least seven hours each day until contractors, employed by Nirex, the government nuclear waste agency, turn up.

Police yesterday had to carry away protesters who lay down on the road in front of the main entrance gates at the Killingholme site in south Humberside.

A convoy of nine lorries with a police escort turned up at the site at 6.30am. But anti-nuclear protesters blocked the main entrance with five cars.

As police moved the cars and protesters, Nirex contractors used bolt cutters to cut a chain on the gate.

A Humberside Against Nuclear Dumping spokesman said sheriff's officers threw copies of the High Court injunction obtained last week, at the feet of the protesters who refused to take them.

The Killingholme move came 24 hours after a High Court injunction had been served against some of the 24 Humberside protesters named.

Contractors delivered drilling equipment to the Bradwell-on-Sea dumping site in Essex in a similar early morning move last Tuesday.

Mr Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Grimsby, has complained about the way the injunctions have been served on Humberside protesters after almost a week's delay.

Portfolio Gold - Win pays for diving holiday

Mr Paul Sloane from Farnborough, Hampshire, was yesterday's sole winner of *The Times Portfolio Gold* prize of £4,000.

Mr Sloane, the director of a computer software company, said he had been playing the *Portfolio Gold* game since it started.

"I am delighted to have won," he said yesterday.

Mr Sloane, aged 36, said that he would spend his winnings on a scuba diving excursion in Hawaii.

Readers who wish to play the game can obtain a *Portfolio Gold* card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

Portfolio Gold, The Times, PO Box 40, Blackburn, BB1 6AJ.

Cashier 'filled in winners'

Linda Gibbs put blank betting slips through the till at William Hill bookmakers in Kentish Town, north London, where she worked as a part-time cashier. Highbury magistrates were told yesterday.

Next day she would enter the winner's name on the blank slip and claim the winnings, Mr Miles Barker, for the prosecution, said.

Gibbs, aged 34, of Birchville Court, St John's Wood, London, admitted stealing £297 from William Hill. She also admitted stealing £5 from the company. She was allowed bail until October 17 for reports.

Mrs Payne to stand trial

Mrs Cynthia Payne, aged 53, charged with controlling prostitutes, elected for trial when she appeared at Camberwell Green Magistrates' Court in south London yesterday.

A second charge alleging that Mrs Payne, of Ambleside Avenue, Streatham, south London, ran a brothel was adjourned indefinitely.

Actor accused

Dennis Waterman, of the TV series *Minder*, is to appear before Dorking magistrates in Surrey on November 20 accused of a drink-driving offence.

Japanese press for new TV

Japan is refusing to admit defeat in its battle to introduce a new kind of television to Europe which is claimed to offer the possibility of cinema-quality pictures.

At the International Broadcasting Convention in Brighton yesterday, the Japanese took over a cinema to show a 30-minute programme produced using a technique called High Definition Television (HDTV). While conventional European television uses 625 horizontal lines to make up a picture, the Japanese systems use 1,250 lines, producing images that are noticeably sharper.

The Japanese demonstration was a clear signal to European broadcasters that Japan has not been scared off by the efforts of European broadcasting authorities to stop HDTV from being adopted as a worldwide standard. Europeans fear that acceptance of HDTV would permit Japan to dominate the future market.

The Government has approved a BBC-developed system of stereo television. The first stereo transmissions are expected to start within two years.

Stereo television receivers are expected to cost about £100 more than current sets.

London judges asked to work overtime

Judges at the Central Criminal Court in London are being asked to work overtime to cut the growing backlog of cases awaiting trial.

From October 6 the court's 20 judges will be expected to sit from 10am until 5pm, an extra hour and a half each day.

There are 1,200 cases awaiting hearing, an unacceptable level, according to a court official.

The extra work the judges are being asked to undertake is part of a London-wide crown court "blitz" to reduce the waiting list.

Paris trips cancelled by British

Travel agencies yesterday reported a 20 per cent drop in tourism to Paris as hundreds of travellers cancelled plans to visit the French capital, after six bombings there in the past two weeks.

Agency spokesmen in London complained of cancellations and a sharp drop in bookings after Wednesday's blast, in which five people were killed and 61 injured. But several travel agencies said the majority of holidaymakers are still travelling to Paris.

Ten people have died and more than 250 have been injured in the 12 bomb attacks carried out in Paris and on the Paris-Lyon express train in the past nine months.

A London-based French travel agency reported that about 25 per cent of tourists, who were set to visit Paris in the next fortnight, have cancelled their bookings in the past few days.

A spokesman said that several people, who telephoned to cancel their reservations, asked to be booked into other French resorts while some postponed their holiday plans.

He said that these holiday-makers gave the recent spate of bomb explosions in Paris as the reason for changing their minds.

A spokesman for the Air Travel Advisory Bureau said that there had been a decline in the number of calls from people inquiring about trips to Paris in the past week.

"People have become wary of going to Paris for the weekend," he said.

The London office of an American agency, however, reported no cancellations in the past two weeks.

And, a spokeswoman for the French Embassy in London, confirmed a steep increase in visa applications.

"We now require tourists from all countries - except the 11 EEC countries and Switzerland - to obtain visas to visit France. That has naturally caused a flood of applications, especially from Americans," she said.

French security, page 5

Girl tells of alleged assault as she prayed

A schoolgirl told the Central Criminal Court yesterday that she was sexually assaulted by a self-styled preacher as he prayed at her bedside in the middle of the night.

"He knelt beside my bed and he took my hand and prayed for me. After a couple of minutes I felt dizzy. I did not actually black-out but I went limp."

He put his hands under the blanket feeling my body. I cannot remember anything after that. I just went out," the girl aged 15 whispered to the jury.

The prosecution has alleged that the South African-born preacher, aged 57, drugged and raped Christian virgins while pretending to give them religious guidance.

He abused the trust placed in him by three women, Mr Hubert Dunn, QC, for the prosecution, has alleged.

The preacher denies three charges of rape, two against the schoolgirl, who was 14 at the time, and two charges of administering a stupefying drug.

The Australian schoolgirl, who comes from a family who read the Bible daily, told the court that the preacher and his wife arrived at the small outback town of Dalby in Queensland, where she lives.

The girl said: "He preached about anything from the Bible. He laid hands on people's heads and prayed for them."

At the invitation of her parents the preacher and his wife came to their home. Her parents were so impressed they lent him a car and invited him back again, she said.

The girl said that the night before Easter Sunday the preacher and his wife arrived at about 2am, when she was asleep. She said the wife woke her up and said they wanted to pray for her.

The wife made her a chocolate drink and after she had drunk it left the room, the girl said.

She said the preacher knelt by her bed and, after saying a prayer, began to feel her body.

The prosecution has alleged the drink was laced with a drug which induced stupor and unconsciousness.

Its effect was such that a girl could be raped and not remember it afterwards, Mr Dunn alleged. He said one of the alleged victims put her drowsy state afterwards down to her experience of God.

Mr Dunn has claimed that on numerous occasions both in Australia and London, the preacher said prayers and then had sexual intercourse with the girl giving evidence yesterday.

The girl told the court: "I did not think someone who says he is a great evangelist should go round raping people and doing the things he did."

"I did not tell anyone. I was just afraid of what people would say. They would not believe me, they would not believe the preacher would have sex with me. He was someone special."

In London the preacher is alleged to have drugged two other women aged 26 and 27, both born-again Christians and virgins, and raped one.

The hearing continues on Monday.

Synthetic growth hormone developed

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Britain, and the Food and Drug Administration, in the United States.

A deficiency of the substance occurs in about one in 5,000 children, leading to stunted growth. Injection with the natural extracts, given while children are at the primary school stage, can increase growth by two to six inches a year.

However, the treatment with the natural preparation was halted by the Department of Health last year. Doctors in

Britain and the United States found that some of their patients had been infected, unknowingly, more than 12 years earlier by slow-acting viruses transmitted in the treatment.

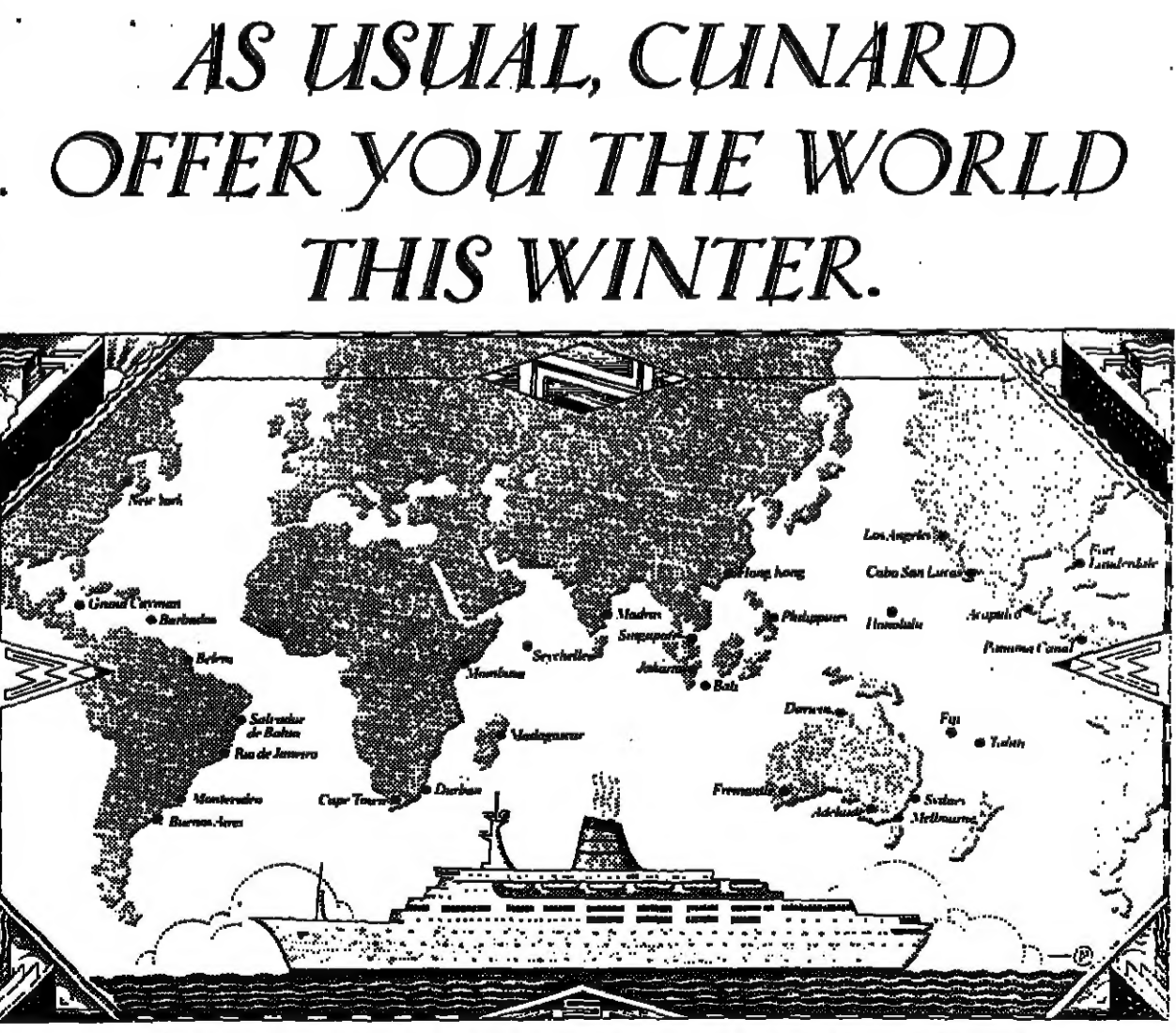
The infection is believed to have occurred when the treatment was first introduced. Since the mid-1970s it is hoped that better purification of the human tissue has prevented contamination.

The synthetic compound is a product of genetic engineering.

The gene that normally instructs the pituitary gland to secrete HGH was extracted and spliced into a harmless bacterium.

Using a special method of growing microbes in fermentation tanks and of purifying the biochemicals they secrete, developed at Porton Down, the first batch of 400 litres was synthesized in 24 hours.

More than 20,000 pituitary glands would be needed to extract an equivalent amount of natural hormone.



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CUNARD

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By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

"No one is satisfied with the present condition of the Official Secrets Act and no doubt in time to come some government will wish to put its hand

Mr Hurd added: "I would simply say as a practising politician that the weight of these groups, almost all of them pursuing a legitimate cause, has very substantially increased in recent years and adds greatly not just to the volume of work, but to the difficulty of achieving de-

"It is, for example, absurd that under the existing arrangements the number of constituencies is bound to increase whenever adjustments are made to allow for increasing population. The House of Commons is already clearly too large."



up to three hours a week during the 10-week autumn and spring terms and participants will pay a £10 registration fee and £10 a term for each course taken. They will not have to write papers or take examinations.

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

be conducted by Paragon, a project run by an independent non-profit-making body called Centre for Interfirm Comparison.

It concludes that in general there is a positive link between

Staff is the main item of costs, and makes up half of the revenue on average in most practices; almost 70 per cent of total costs.

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The judge has ordered a speedy trial of the main claim that the disciplinary proceedings by Brent were unlawful.

An inquiry is to be held after the death or suicide of 16 patients and former patients of St John's Hospital, Lincoln. The inquiry, by Trent Regional Health Authority, will also look into the care and treatment of psychiatric patients in north Lincolnshire.

Mr Richards was kicked as he lay on the pavement after a nightclub fracas.

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Anti-terror agencies fight to point of conflict

France hamstrung by security rivalries

From Gavin Bell
Paris

They are taking away the flower boxes that line the Champs Elyse, and desks and benches from post offices throughout Paris. Anything that might be used to conceal a bomb is being removed from public places to deter further terrorist attacks.

The gesture at once illustrates the gravity of the threat and the apparent impotence of the French security services in combating it.

France has a huge apparatus of more than 200,000 men and women engaged in the struggle against terrorism. But they are severely handicapped in being split among a variety of military and civilian organizations divided by jealousy and rivalry.

The philosophy behind this policy is that a supreme in charge of all the police and intelligence agencies would yield awesome power, a prospect that makes the politicians decidedly nervous. A parallel is drawn with the late Yuri Andropov, who rose from his influential position as head of the KGB to become leader of the Soviet Union.

Hence the division starts at the top. Security forces are spread among three ministries - Interior, Defence and Justice - and a recently created security division under a deputy minister who reports to the Interior Ministry.

The frontline groups in the clandestine war come from two rival intelligence agencies: the DST, mainly concerned with counter espionage in France; and the DGSE, which carries out similar activity abroad.

Each has about 3,000 personnel, but there the similarity ends. The DST is a civilian unit reporting to the Interior Ministry, while the DGSE is a military force controlled by the Defence Ministry.

Interior also has a powerful tool in the DRG, a kind of political police force about 2,000-strong which monitors sources of political support for Basque and Corsican separatists and other potentially violent extremists.

Not only are these agencies reluctant to co-operate with each other, they often compete to the point of conflict.

A source close to the French intelligence community told *The Times* that efforts to co-ordinate their activities at executive level were largely ineffective.

"Take for example a case where the DGSE had identified a potential terrorist abroad. If the suspect enters France, they should in theory alert the



Applicants for the visas now required to enter France form a long queue along Fifth Avenue outside the French Consulate in New York.

DST. But in practice they do not, and continue to follow him themselves. The reasoning is, why should another service take the credit for our work?

For example, the DST established a network in Lebanon many years ago because of its historic ties with France. The DGSE resented what it regarded as interference in its theatre of operations, and in the late 1970s sent in its own men, officially to protect French troops joining the United Nations peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon.

"So it is quite possible an informer is being manipulated by both services, without being aware of it," the source said.

The man with the unenviable post of co-ordinating the work of rival agencies is Mr Francois Le Mouel, head of the anti-terrorist unit called Uclat at the Interior Ministry.

Mr Jacques Chirac, the Prime Minister, has also created a national security council grouping the ministries concerned.

Neither body appears to have had much success in improving operational co-operation between the various services.

Gendarmarie General René Omnes, in a recent paper on the anti-terrorist struggle, concluded that there was a lack of direction: "Several organizations appear to be responsible for the same mission, with the corollary that each receives information that is not seriously analysed at the top level. Therefore no profit is gained from the valuable work of more than 200,000 men on the ground."

The lack of co-ordination is also inhibiting co-operation with the intelligence services of allied countries. Several are known to have complained that they never know who

happen, and let him get away with it? It's an awful moral dilemma."

At least twice in recent years, such informers are known to have been executed by their erstwhile comrades - one in Lebanon and two in France.

The source said the Government has ordered its intelligence agencies to become more aggressive in infiltrating terrorist cells, tracking down the mastermind (if he exists) and identifying their sources of training, money and arms.

But there again, there appears to be two schools of thought. The prevailing police view is that the bombings are the work of the family of Georges Ibrahim Abdullah, leader of the Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Faction, who is in a French prison.

The politicians perceive a more complex campaign aimed more at forcing France to withdraw from Lebanon, orchestrated by regional powers seeking a free hand to carve up the country.

In reviewing the campaign against the extreme-left group Action Directe, M Le Mouel said in a confidential report last December: "In the past, a number of arrests were made through intelligence gathered from informers. For more than a year, the specialized agencies have not had sufficiently reliable and above all well placed sources..."

"The difficulties regarding the pursuit and neutralization of a terrorist group that has acquired a fair degree of technical expertise are such that there can be no miracle solution."

It may be a long time before the flowers are restored to the Champs Elyse.

Tebbit backs Paris visa move in war on terrorists

Vienna (AP) - Mr Norman

Tebbit, the chairman of the Conservative Party, yesterday gave strong backing to the French Government's restrictions imposed on foreigners in its efforts to curb terrorism.

"If the foreign policy of a national government can be dictated by a small number of terrorists, sufficiently ruthless to murder without discrimination men, women, children... then we would have come to the end of civilized order in the world," he said.

Mr Tebbit commented on criticism of this week's decision by the French Government to introduce visas for citizens of several non-commonwealth European countries outside the 12-nation European Economic Community.

He and other party leaders were addressing a news conference on the first day of a meeting of party leaders of the European Democratic Union, a group of Conservative and Christian Democratic parties, which is headed by Herr Alois Mock, chairman of the Austrian People's Party.

Earlier, Mr Carl Billet, who heads the Swedish opposition Conservatives, complained about the French curbs on travel from Scandinavian countries.

Mr Tebbit said.

The two-day meeting at Vienna's Hofburg Congress Centre was completely overshadowed by the recent wave of terrorist attacks in France. It was attended by Chancellor Kohl of West Germany, Mr Paul Schuster, the Danish Prime Minister, and Mr Turgut Ozal, the Prime Minister of Turkey.

Herr Mock said the session was expected to endorse a set of proposals to fight international terrorism in a resolution to be adopted on Sunday.

Controls essential: Sir Henry Plumb, leader of the Conservatives in the European Parliament yesterday called on all EEC governments to bring in visa requirements for visitors from non-Common Market countries.

In a speech to a conference on international and European Policy in Vienna, Sir Henry said strict visa controls were essential in the fight against terrorism.

Mr Tebbit said the order was cancelled after Paris made clear that citizens of those countries did not require visas stamped in their passports.

Guerrillas give Duarte victory in propaganda

From Philip Jacobson
Sesori, El Salvador

True to his word, President Duarte of El Salvador turned up in this remote town in the middle of guerrilla territory yesterday, the day appointed for peace talks with guerrilla leaders.

He immediately berated the guerrillas for failing to appear after the breakdown of preliminary talks earlier this week.

"I'm here at the right time in the right place on the right day," Señor Duarte told a crowd of several hundred people in the town square. "So where are they, those people who talk of peace all the time but won't come to Sesori to discuss it. You the people are here, the workers, the mothers, the children, but where is the other side?"

It was a vintage Duarte performance, long on rhetoric, rather shorter on specific proposals about how the faltering peace negotiations might be revived. And try as he would, his voice cracked from the strain and sweat streaming down his face, the President could not get much response from his audience. Possibly because many in his audience were refugees displaced by the civil war.

They told foreign journalists they had been put in buses and told to wave white flags and cheer at the right moment.

Once a prosperous town of 25,000 people, but with a population now reduced by war to around 6,000, Sesori lies in the middle of one of the most disputed areas of El Salvador. The only way to approach it, unless you have the presidential helicopter, is along a series of back-breaking dirt roads.

It reminded me of a landing zone in Vietnam. The air seemed to be full of military helicopters, stirring up huge clouds of yellow dust and stripping nearby fields of their crops. Helicopter gunships hovered above the town as the President arrived and his speech was not aided by a Red Cross helicopter flying in circles above.

When he finished his address President Duarte retired to the church to hold a Mass for peace. Outside, his aides attempted to work the crowd into a better degree of enthusiasm, without noticeable success. It does not really matter, Señor Duarte said he would be here, he said, the guerrillas were not, and the desperately war-weary people will have taken that in. Where the negotiations go next, if anywhere, remains to be seen.

Onus for Unifil laid on Israel

New York - Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General, yesterday laid the onus of the beleaguered state of the UN forces in southern Lebanon on Israel (Zoriana Pysarski writes).

He urged collective measures to ensure that the Israeli defence forces dismantled their security zone and withdrew to their own borders in a report to the Security Council, which, at the request of France, was meeting later on the Unifil crisis.

The Secretary-General almost ignored the growing evidence that the mounting attacks against the UN peacekeepers was a concerted effort by fundamentalist Shia Muslim groups, drawing their inspiration from Iran, to compel the force to leave.

Pole flees under fire

Tirschenreuth, West Germany (AP) - A Polish man escaped unhurt across the Czechoslovak border to West Germany despite a hail of bullets from communist guards, but a second man was arrested. West German authorities said yesterday.

Czechoslovak border police opened fire on the two Poles, both aged 19, as they tried to flee into West Germany's Bavaria state.

Red Cross Sudan plea

Geneva - The International Committee of the Red Cross said yesterday that it has often asked the Sudanese People's Liberation Army to allow food to be flown to the besieged town of Wau and other areas. "but so far all these efforts have been in vain" (Alan McGregor writes).

The rules and spirit of international humanitarian law - and in particular the fundamental principle of humanity - require the belligerents to spare non-combatants and to do everything in their power to ensure civilians receive what is necessary for survival," the ICRC added.

Execution by injection

Raleigh, North Carolina (AP) - A man who confessed to raping, beating and slashing a 25-year-old nurse was executed by injection not far from the field where he left her to bleed to death.

The last words of John William Rook, aged 27, were: "Freedom, freedom, at last, man. It's been a good one."

Asylum plea

Madrid (Reuters) - Twenty-three Poles, including eight children, who arrived at Madrid airport from Yugoslavia have asked for political asylum in Spain.

Inquiry ends

Jerusalem - The results of a two-month police inquiry into Shin Bet, the Israeli counter-intelligence agency, have been handed over to the Attorney-General.

Eagle killers

Vaasa, Finland (Reuters) - Finnish hunters who shot a white-tailed sea eagle have been fined £6,000.

Beef halted

Harare (Reuters) - Zimbabwe has suspended beef exports to the European Community to rebuild its herds, which were depleted by drought last year.

Boy isolated

Fountain Valley, California (AP) - School officials have ordered that a 13-year-old boy be isolated from his classmates because he refused to remove a diamond earring.

33,000 die

Berlin (AP) - Nicaragua has lost 33,000 people and suffered £1.5 billion in damages from seven years of war between government troops and US-backed guerrillas. President Ortega was quoted as saying.

Drug murders

Moscow (Reuters) - Drug addicts in the Soviet Central Asian city of Alma-Ata have committed two murders and are responsible for more than half of all thefts and burglary in the area, an official newspaper said.

Hijack bill

Monrovia (AFP) - The Liberian Senate has passed a Bill making armed robbery, hijacking and terrorism punishable by death.

Border rows

Jerusalem - Two of the three international and neutral arbitrators needed to join the court which is to settle the 14 border disputes between Egypt and Israel have been approved by the two governments, according to unofficial sources here.

Scientology reels after \$30m case

From Ivor Davis
Los Angeles

In what Church of Scientology leaders called a blow that could destroy its organization, a Los Angeles Superior Court judge has upheld a jury's \$30 million (£20.4 million) damages award to a former member who claimed the religious cult destroyed his life mentally and financially.

Judge Ronald Swearingen on Thursday denied without comment the Church's bid to win a new trial or invalidate the huge award to Mr Larry Wollersheim, who was granted \$5 million compensatory and \$25 million punitive damages after a long and bitter trial that ended in July.

Since the Church's lawyers have argued in court that its religious beliefs were unconstitutionally placed on trial and that the big award reflected the jury's prejudice and passion.

Scientologists have organized non-stop candle vigils outside the courthouse in Los Angeles and launched a press campaign to bring their efforts to public attention.

At a press conference last night, the Church's lawyer, Mr Earle Cooley, called the judge's decision "the most outrageous evasion of judicial responsibility ever seen in this country."

He said the Church could be forced to post the \$60 million bond to prevent Mr Wollersheim from receiving any money while the case is on appeal and that the amount would severely strain the Church's net worth of \$18 million.

He would also seek a new trial even if it meant going to the US Supreme Court.

The Church of Scientology and its affiliates have been the target of a wave of lawsuits by ex-members in recent years.

Mr Wollersheim sued it in 1980 after 11 years in the organization, during which he was a travelling spokesman, was a travelling spokesman, was a travelling spokesman.

He had claimed that he was subjected to "psychological manipulations" and was robbed of his judgment through a Scientology practice known as auditing in which an individual is asked to reveal intimate details of his life while his responses are monitored on a lie detector device.

Victim of Soviet labour camps in Britain

Prisoner of conscience walks free

By Our Foreign Staff

Mr Nikolai Baranov's first impulse on arrival in Britain, after 23 years in Soviet labour camps and psychiatric hospitals where he was subjected to tranquilizing injections, was to go for long, lonely walks in the "clean, fresh air" of Staffordshire.

At a press conference at Amnesty International's international secretariat in London yesterday, Mr Baranov, aged 49, a former Moscow construction worker, related his experiences - over 17 years of them - in Soviet "special psychiatric hospitals" - which followed his arrest in 1963 for distributing pamphlets for a clandestine Russian nationalist organization and for seeking to emigrate.

Mr Baranov arrived in Britain on August 3 with his twin sister, Elena Baranov, and her son, after concerted efforts by Amnesty International over the past seven years and an appeal by Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, when he visited the Soviet Union last year.

For the past six weeks, Mr Baranov and his only two surviving relatives have been living with a north Staffordshire family, part of an Am-



Mr Nikolai Baranov and his sister Elena yesterday at the Amnesty International press conference in London.

nesty case worker group which wrote 10,000 letters on his behalf during his ordeal.

After he was caught passing a leaflet for his organization, The Path, which he said followed the precepts of "Christian democracy", Mr Baranov spent five years in a labour camp in Mordovskaya west of Moscow which he described as "a paradise on Earth" compared with the special psychiatric hospitals designed for treatment of the "criminally insane".

He was arrested again after he had dropped anti-Soviet pamphlets in the Swedish Embassy's letterbox.

Doctors at the Serbsky Central Institute for Forensic Psychiatry declared him "unaccountable for his actions" and he was despatched to a

variety of institutions in Tashkent, hundreds of miles from his family.

The drugs with which he was injected did not cause him to hallucinate, but left him in a state of continual physical pain.

"The worst punishment is the needle with the injection," he said. "I was prepared to suffer all sorts of other punishments."

In July, the drug infusions abruptly stopped and later he was told he would be allowed to leave the Soviet Union.

On August 3, two KGB officers drove him to Leningrad Airport and he boarded a plane to find his sister and nephew waiting for him.

Mr Baranov's immediate priority is to learn English, a trade and then find employment.

Gibraltar airport talks end

Senior British and Spanish officials ended here yesterday a day-and-a-half of talks reviewing possible future joint use of Gibraltar's airport and other co-operation measures without announcing any decisions.

Both sides afterwards showed maximum discretion about the talks between Mr David Ratford, Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office responsible for Southern Europe, and Señor Jesus Ezquerria, his Spanish counterpart.

British officials were yesterday discouraging the impression that a formula for joint use of Gibraltar's airport would be announced later by the two countries' foreign ministers when they meet, as a political breakthrough.

A further meeting is now likely at a senior level before Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Señor Francisco Fernández Ordóñez hold their annual meeting.

Papandreou promise to revive earthquake town

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Greek Prime Minister, yesterday promised the people of Kalamata interest-free loans and grants to help them rebuild or repair their homes devastated by the earthquakes which killed 20 people a week ago.

He told an outdoor gathering of the town's civic leaders: "Your grief has become a cause for national mourning. I promise that Kalamata will soon regain its vitality."

Official estimates of the damage in this port town of 42,000 inhabitants revealed that two-thirds of its 21,000 private buildings were no longer habitable.

Mr Papandreou said the earthquake victims would be given interest-free loans for 15 years to rebuild their homes.

The Prime Minister made a four-hour visit to the city, accompanied by a group of ministers, and toured some of the 35 campsites where thousands of homeless live under canvas.

BRUSSELS: The European Community Executive Commission yesterday announced it would make available one million European Currency Units (£700,000) to provide emergency aid to people hit by the Greek earthquake (Reuters reports).

A spokesman said the Commission was also considering speeding up the disbursement of aid already agreed for Greece.

MOSCOW: An earthquake shook the Soviet republic of Moldavia early yesterday, less than three weeks after two earthquakes killed two people and caused extensive damage in the region. Tass reported.

Rubik launches new Magic

Budapest (Reuters) - For those whose wrists and patience survived the Rubik Cube, a fiendish new challenge is now available - Rubik's Magic.

Mr Erno Rubik, the Hungarian mathematician, designer and inventor, launched Magic at the Budapest Trade Fair yesterday, hoping to sweep the world with another puzzle craze.

Like the Cube, the challenge of Magic is to manipulate shapes from chaos into a pattern. Both employ an ingenious and secret mechanism that defies immediate understanding.

Magic consists of eight flat sections joined by mysterious hinges of plastic filament which, instead of having just one angle, have 45. The aim is to form a pattern of interlocking rings from the confusion of brightly-coloured arcs on the sections.

The puzzle can be bent into unexpected three-dimensional shapes as the parts are twisted and broken from each other.

"It's the same idea as the Cube. Part basic puzzle, part provocation to experiment, to see what you can make of it," Mr Rubik said. He said the creation of order out of confusion



The new Rubik's Magic puzzle, left, and its inventor, Mr Erno Rubik, the man who gave the world Rubik's Cube

was not the only important element of the puzzle. "When you are working to find a solution you create different kinds of three-dimensional forms," he said.

The inventor, aged 42, teaches at Budapest's Academy of Design and Crafts.

Although Magic has a more elaborate appearance than the Cube, which sold in millions, Mr Rubik says it still depends on a simple idea.

Both puzzles sprang from Mr Rubik's background of studying sculpture, architecture and design, as well as a special talent for mathematical manipulation. He has learned hard business lessons from his experiences with the Cube, with pirate companies cashing in on the device.

The new puzzle has been patented in 40 countries and distributed to marketing points in the United States and Europe ready for sale next month. The US firm licensed to market the Cube was surprised by its extraordinary success in 1980 and 1981 and unable to meet the demand.

Black miners to vote on pay strike as feelings run high over fatal fire

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South Africa's National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), which represents some 300,000 of the more than 500,000 blacks working in gold, coal and other mines, yesterday said that it would hold a strike ballot among its members.

The decision was announced after the NUM reached a deadlock yesterday morning in wage negotiations with the Chamber of Mines, which represents the main mining houses.

The NUM said the Chamber had rejected arbitration and had remained "intransigent to the reasonable demands of the union".

The threat of a strike in

South Africa's most important industry comes at a time when feelings are already running high among black miners because of the underground fire at the Kinnross Gold Mine last Tuesday in which 177 people died, all but five of them black.

The NUM announced yesterday that it intends to bring mining experts from Britain and West Germany to South Africa to assist in the judicial inquiry into the disaster. It said it was also looking at the possibility of a prosecution of the Kinnross owner, for criminal negligence.

Meanwhile, the South African Foreign Minister, Mr

"Pik" Botha, has separately invited Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his West German counterpart, and "the best German experts" to come to South Africa to look at safety standards here, of which they were "apparently not aware".

This was in response to a suggestion by Herr Genscher that deep-level mining experts from other countries might be able to suggest improvements.

The NUM has been in dispute with the Chamber of Mines since July 1, when the mining houses unilaterally introduced wage rises ranging between 15 and 19 per cent in response to the union's demand for a 30 per cent increase across-the-board.

In negotiations last Monday, the two sides came slightly closer, with the NUM reducing its demand to 26 per cent, and the chamber raising its offer by a percentage point or so. The Kinnross tragedy may have hardened attitudes on the union side.

Gencor, the Afrikaner-dominated mining company which owns Kinnross, admitted yesterday that it did not know whether a polyurethane anti-corrosion foam which is thought to have been a factor in the disaster had ever been tested for toxicity before being used in the mine.

At a press conference in Johannesburg, Mr Carl Ntsecher, senior director of Gencor's mining division, gave an assurance that the foam would be removed immediately from all the company's mines. Other executives said they did not think it was widely used.

Mr Ntsecher said, however, that the company was not prepared to remove PVC-sheathed cables and other flammable substances until the findings of the official inquiry into the disaster were known. That could take up to a year.

Provisional indications are that poisonous fumes from burning cables and other materials, and from the polyurethane foam may have caused the deaths.

The executive chairman of Gencor, Mr Derek Keys, told the press conference that the company was setting up an independent trust fund, endowed with an initial sum of two million rands (\$600,000) to supplement the existing forms of compensation for bereaved families.

Japan adds visas ban to sanctions

From David Watts, Tokyo

Japan is to introduce sanctions against South Africa similar to those of the EEC, but with one significant addition.

As well as banning imports of pig-iron and steel, Japan will also decline to issue visas for South African tourists and discourage Japanese tourists from going there. While continuing the ban on air links between the two countries, it will also stop government officials from travelling on South African Airways (SAA).

The Government cannot do anything in the short-term about the SAA office in Tokyo except decline to renew visas of South African staff. The office books flights on SAA which originate from Taipei.

Japan, whose nationals are "honorary whites" in South Africa, already maintains relations with Pretoria at consular rather than full diplomatic level.

It restricts investment and finance, limits sporting, cultural and educational contacts, forbids the import of arms and the export of computers to agencies enforcing apartheid and urges its citizens not to buy Krugerrands.

The Japanese decided not to ban the import of either coal or iron ore because of their importance to home industry and the fear that banning them would adversely affect the lives of black miners.

A Foreign Ministry official said it was not constructive to destroy the Pretoria economy, but the Government recognizes that "some stronger measures are necessary to convey our position to the South African Government".

The Ministry emphasized that the measures are "not everlasting" and the Government is ready to lift them when Pretoria clearly indicates that it is going to abolish apartheid.

Japan believes the ban on iron and steel is a substantial measure since the country imports some 18 per cent of South African exports, last year worth \$280 million (\$136 million), and is the second largest customer.

The ban, however, does not apply to existing contracts and will take a little time to enforce. Japanese coal imports from South Africa were worth \$410 million and iron ore \$180 million in 1985.

Last year Japan was host to 4,000 South Africans, of whom 25 per cent were on tourist visas and would no longer get in under the new regulations. South Africa received 3,800 Japanese.

Mr Masaharu Gotoda, the Chief Cabinet Secretary, called for the release of the African National Congress leader, Mr Nelson Mandela, and the removal of bans on anti-apartheid organizations.

Africa sees quick and easy solution

From Zoriana Pysarsky, New York

African countries are convinced that economic sanctions will force the departure of white minority rule in South Africa and that they will do so quickly and with relative ease. For them, beyond the image of a collapsed apartheid regime lies a frontier free from South Africa's harsh brand of economic benevolence and military impunity.

This African perception is the motivation behind the sanctions campaign, which has now shifted to the United Nations, where the General Assembly is in the midst of a four-day debate on Namibia, likely to wind up today with calls for a total blockade meant to place particular pressure on Britain.

Although the African approach to sanctions is far from monolithic, one common scenario emerges from talks with African diplomats and political analysts who believe South Africa's resilience to broad sanctions will be transitory at best, an embargo's impact provoking the sought-after change almost immediately.

In order to achieve the optimum effect, they believe, sanctions must at least hold out the promise of being all-encompassing. While critical of the European Community package as being too lukewarm, the predominant African view is that the EEC measures mark a watershed since they appear to have delivered a psychological blow and convinced South Africans that sanctions from tradi-

tional allies are inevitable. By the same token the West should not expect the pressure to diminish, since Africans believe the momentum must be grasped and fuelled until the goals are met.

Beyond the moral and emotive aspects of the sanctions campaign, the African-constructed scenario of a Pretoria choked by a web of economic penalties helps to explain why a majority of the African frontline states whose economies are intertwined with South Africa's seem so committed to punitive measures and have accepted the prospect of debilitating counter-measures from Pretoria with such stoic resignation.

According to an independent study, South Africa's economic and military coercion of its neighbours is costing the black-ruled states in excess of \$10 billion (£6.8 million). The frontline countries believe they have a choice of suffering briefly, albeit intensely, from South Africa's wrath in the form of counter-measures or suffering interminably from its dominance.

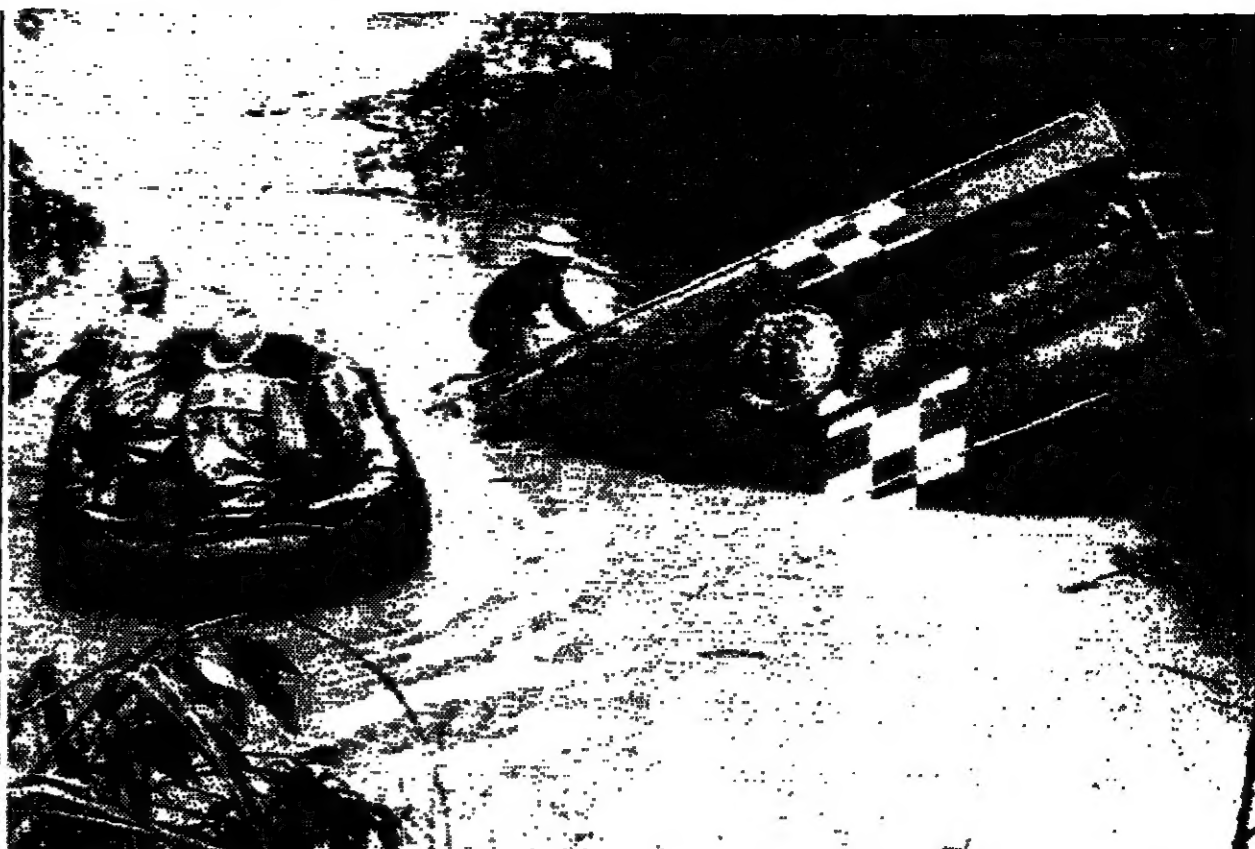
While Africans have pressed the West for comprehensive sanctions for the past 20 years, the decibel level of their demands reached a new intensity after two recent trends in South Africa which helped to crystallize African thinking and illuminate the practical advantages of bringing to an end a system which they abhor.

African diplomats point to the initiatives taken by South African businessmen to work out the terms of reference for a dialogue between black leaders and the Botha Government after last year's Western freeze on new loans.

Should South Africa be continue to be squeezed, they believe the business community will not tolerate a seige economy but force the Government into negotiations with the African National Congress (ANC) leading to a transfer of power along the Rhodesian model.

The past year has also seen Pretoria's attempt to forge a "pax Africana" founder. The cornerstone of its regional diplomatic ambitions, the Nkomat accord with Mozambique, failed in the view of African analysts because South Africa continued its support of the Renamo insurgency movement operating against the Government of President Machel, having decided it could not allow Mozambique to flourish for fear that it would escape its hold.

For almost a two-year period of a developing rapprochement between South Africa and its neighbours, the African call for sanctions was muted. But Pretoria's decision to replace the hand of friendship with an iron fist, diplomats say, convinced the frontline states once and for all that their economic and political stability is inherently tied with an end to white minority rule.



A petrol lorry lying partly submerged in a Taiwan river after its driver lost control in typhoon winds which reached 110 miles an hour.

Typhoon Abby lashed the country from Wednesday night until yesterday and resulted in six deaths, the lorry driver among them (AP reports from Taipei).

It left floods in its wake, and blew loose the cables of four cargo ships which drifted for 10 hours in Keelung harbour, about 200 miles south of Taipei.

The Central Weather Bureau said that Abby weakened at around midday yesterday, when the eye of the storm crossed central Taiwan and its winds dropped.

The two main airports, Taipei's Chiang Kai-shek and the international airport in Kaohsiung, reopened yesterday after being closed for 12 hours.

Abby is the second big storm to hit Taiwan this year. Typhoon Wayne swept through last month, leaving 52 dead and damage estimated at \$270 million.

Iraq and Iran claim victories

Baghdad (AP) — Iraq

claimed its forces crushed an Iranian offensive in the central sector of the Gulf war front yesterday, killing 1,400 soldiers and wounding 3,000 others, the state-run Iraqi News Agency (INA) said.

It was the first Iraqi report of heavy fighting in the central sector of the 733-mile front since Tuesday, when Iran announced advances in the region west of the Iranian border town of Mehran.

INA said the Iranians attacked a height in the region and that Iraqi forces were able to "wipe out 1,400 of the attacking forces and inflict injuries on about 3,000 Iranians while the rest fled".

"The situation settled decisively and completely in favor of Iraqi forces" at 11am yesterday it said. Iraqi forces "are exercising their control, with full force, on all the border hills," the agency said.

The Iraqis have been saying since Tuesday that minor clashes were occurring between an Iraqi "ambush group" and Iranian infantry companies in the central sector.

Yesterday's Iraqi announcement did not state the military significance of the height attacked by the Iranians.

Iran claimed on Thursday that its forces had captured a string of hills, pushing six miles inside Iraqi territory.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency reported yesterday that Iranian forces captured slopes of a strategic hill in five hours of hand-to-hand combat with Iraqi troops. It said an Iraqi battalion was "smashed" with several prisoners taken.

Israelis and Lebanon militia in drive to capture gunmen

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

The battles also demonstrated that the guerrillas are trying to sever the corridor of territory held by the SLA and running from the Israeli occupation zone up to the Christian mountain town of Jezzine.

The Israelis are unlikely to allow that to happen; but to prevent it they will be forced to send their soldiers north of the occupied area — as they did yesterday — and thus risk suffering the sort of casualties which many Israelis feel are unacceptable in the Lebanon war. The Lebanese resistance movement, which is helped by Sunni as well as by Shia Muslim fundamentalists, has long tried to tempt the Israelis into just such a renewed involvement.

Even as the Israelis were hunting for the SLA's attackers yesterday, the French paratroop contingent of the United Nations force further south was redeploying to new positions which will — so the UN hopes — prevent further attacks being made against them by the Hezbollah. The French left their northernmost outpost at dawn and handed it over to soldiers from the UN's Nepalese battalion.

The Syrian Army meanwhile has announced that it intends to prevent any further deterioration in security in west Beirut. Brigadier-General Ghazi Kensa, the head of Syrian Army intelligence in Lebanon, told a news conference in the northern city of Tripoli that "kidnappers and bank robbers will be dealt with firmly".

The abduction of two more Americans in west Beirut last week and a series of spectacular bank robberies by gunmen who are, like the rest of the population, feeling the collapse of the Lebanese pound, has been deeply embarrassing to the Syrians who sent their troops into the Muslim sector of the city in July for the express purpose of restoring law and order.

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Afghan siege forces united rebel attacks

Nicosia (AP) — Nine Af-

ghan rebel groups have agreed to step up attacks against government forces and the Soviet Army in western Afghanistan to ease pressure on several hundred guerrillas besieged by 20,000 troops, the Iranian news agency Iran reported yesterday.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the groups met on Thursday at Mashhad in Iran, near the border with Afghanistan.

One killed in Bangladesh student riots

Dhaka — One person was

killed and more than 100 others were wounded when border guards were called to quell riots between university students and transport workers in northern Bangladesh on Thursday (Ahmed Fazi writes).

The violence, which erupted after a group of workers attacked a woman student, forced the closure of the university in Rajshahi Town, about 240 miles from Dhaka.

Tamils blame police gunfire for deaths

From Vijitha Yapa, Colombo

The Citizen's Committee of Batticaloa in eastern Sri Lanka yesterday said that 11 civilians died and 30 others were missing after police drove through the town killing indiscriminately.

It said the police also set fire to shops while Air Force planes strafed areas of the town.

The missing include 23 people who had watched a film at the Rajeswary Theatre and who are alleged to have been held by a police task force. The Citizen's Committee has sent a telegram to President Jayewardene asking for an immediate official inquiry.

The incidents occurred after a car bomb exploded on Thursday near a bus stand. The Citizen's Committee said the blast killed only two civilians; 11 others whose bodies were taken to a mortuary died of bullet wounds.

The Government confirmed that 13 people died, but claimed three were burned in a bus which caught fire as a

result of the explosion, one was electrocuted when a high tension wire fell on him while the others waiting at the bus stop died as a result of the blast.

But a press release yesterday said "terrorists had fired" at a Jeep carrying seven policemen who were injured by the car bomb explosion back to their camp.

"It is believed some civilians might have been seriously injured or dead as a result of the terrorist fire," it said.

The Minister of National Security, Mr Lalith Athulath-mudali, said the explosives had been detonated by remote control.

He said that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the most hardline of the five principal extremist groups, appeared to be responsible for the attack.

Earlier this week, he toured Batticaloa and told security forces that winning the hearts and minds of the Tamil civilians was an important aspect of their work.

Singaporeans targets of a state Cupid

Singapore (Reuters) — Singa-

pore's state matchmakers said yesterday they were planning a campaign to encourage thousands of secondary-school graduates to marry.

Officials at the Government's one-year-old Social Development Section (SDS), said they would invite the young people to meet members of the opposite sex at social events in 100 clubs all over the island.

The SDS has run a number of small gatherings, but the director, Miss Ng-Chen Chai Lee, said that virtually all Singapore parliamentary constituencies would organize discos, dancing classes, fishing trips and weekend outings for single people aged between 20 and 30.

She expects some 20,000 to be attracted to the scheme by next June.

Chirac setback on television privatization

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

The Constitutional Council, France's highest authority on constitutional matters, has annulled two articles of the Government's broadcasting Bill which was pushed through Parliament in August by means of the guillotine, which cuts short debate.

The two articles concern the rules governing the privatization of France's main state television channel, TF1, and the re-allocation of two existing private channels.

The council is worried that the Bill does not guarantee the pluralism of broadcasting and guard against takeovers by large press groups.

Its objections mean that a new Bill will have to be passed through Parliament this autumn to clarify this point.

Top Bulgarians linked to coins fraud

By Roger Boyes, East European Correspondent

A marathon trial in Bulgaria has uncovered a smuggling and counterfeiting racket which diverted gold and silver pieces from one of the world's most valuable coin collections and sold them to private dealers in the West.

Although the court proceedings which ended last week have carefully avoided naming names, it is clear that highly-placed members of the Bulgarian establishment were involved in the fraud.

Bulgaria is a veritable goldmine for numismatists with dozens of archaeological finds from the 14th century and earlier yielding thousands of unusually well preserved coins and seals.

Most of them have been housed in the archaeological museum of Plovdiv, Bulgaria's second largest city. But for the

past decade the coins have been disappearing. About 12,000 ancient gold, silver and copper coins are missing from the inventory, including a unique exhibit — a silver seal of Tsar Ivan Alexander (1331-1371).

When a Western expert wanted to inspect gold coins found in an archaeological dig in the village of Malko Topolovo he realized that they had been replaced by worthless lead fakes.

For the past six years the museum director, Mr Christo Ivan Dzambalov, has been on trial. His explanation was that the coins were "borrowed" by various important, but unnamed people.

Most of them signed receipts but very low values were placed on the coins. One receipt, for example, is for 432 coins valued at only 33,725 leva (about £11,000) which is only a small fraction of the true value.

The Tsar's seal, worth several thousands of pounds, was signed off for 200 leva, or 267. Evidently the signers conveniently lost the borrowed coins and netted a huge profit.

Who waylaid the coins? There is some speculation that the borrowers were friends of the late Mrs Ludmilla Zhivkova, the daughter of Bulgarian leader, Mr Todor Zhivkov. For most of the period of the fraud she was in charge of Bulgarian culture, a very active member of the Politburo and the Culture Minister.

She thus carries some of the political responsibility for the fraud even if she did not personally profit from it.

It used to be a common practice in Eastern Europe to borrow pieces of furniture or paintings from museum storerooms and treat them as one's own property. Many of those associated with Mrs Zhivkova — who died mysteriously

in 1981 at the age of 39 — were famous for their high living, including shopping trips to Vienna and Paris.

The children of Politburo members have been known to smuggle valuable art works from Bulgaria into Turkey to finance their trips to the West.

Mr Dzambalov, however, has been extremely discreet throughout his six-year trial. The receipts he has shown in his defence have been mainly signed by people now dead and the charges against him have been whittled down to "wastefulness" and "mismanagement of a state museum".

Due to lack of evidence, the judges have decided not to put him in jail, but to fine him about 112,000 leva (£37,500).

That is about 40 years average wages, or the market value of about 10 of the missing coins. The mild sentence suggests that he is reaping the reward of his discretion.

WHAT TO DO IF INTEREST ON YOUR SAVINGS SEEMS TO HAVE REACHED BOTTOM.

SEE PAGE 33

SPORTS DIARY

Simon Barnes

Send for Botham

Ian Botham and Viv Richards have already signed for another club. Yes, they have agreed terms with Hangerford, Town Football Club of the Vauxhall Open League. Both are pretty good footballers, if a little long in the tooth. Botham's exploits for Southampton, and Viv's for Hangerford, have not gone without notice, but Richards' triumphs, by being the only person to have played in both the cricket and the football world cups, have played a part in the football competition. Both have their commitments over the winter, but Hangerford are optimistic that both will be able to play regularly in the new year. The club's secretary, Keith Lovitt, said: "They are both very keen to play for us and we would love to have them in the team. They are good players. Their first appearance together should be in a match to celebrate Hangerford's centenary, next Sunday against Somerset cricket club. No one is quite sure on which side Richards and Botham will play."

Stylized

Meanwhile I learn from a poll commissioned by Polaroid that Botham is the 27th most stylish person in Britain. Only one other sportsman got into the top 50 - Sebastian Coe, at 43rd. Fascinating to recount, 60 per cent of Botham's votes came from men under 35, while Coe's support came mainly from over-45s. To put all this in context, the Princess of Wales was first, Prince Charles second and Prince Andrew joint third with Terry Wogan.

Flat broke

How rich and glamorous is the world of racing. Take the glittering line-up for the Bewdley Selling Stakes at Wolverhampton on Monday. Matt McCourt, proud trainer of the winner, Lisakaty, said afterwards: "That must be the worst race ever run." He had something of a point. It was the eleventh time lucky for Lisakaty. The six three-year-olds in the race had between them 36 runs, which included one second and one third. *Spurring Life*, which gives horse-ratings which sometimes go up into the 90s, did not give any rating at all to three of the runners. One was rated at two, and with masterly understatement said to be "disappointing". Lisakaty's triumph was rewarded with the princely sum of £731.30. This being a selling race, she was offered for sale afterwards at £800. There were no takers.



Barry Fantoni

Demonballs

An attempt on the century-old record for throwing a cricket ball failed this week when Don Topley of Essex managed only a mere 332ft 11in. Team mate Keith Pont, who had been expected to get close to the record - 422ft - suffered a bout of nerves and was yards below his previous best of 414ft. Doubt surrounds the date of the record throw, by Robert Revell. *Wisden* has long recorded it as 1884 and the *Gentlemen's Book of Records* as 1881, but researchers now point to 1882. And how accurate was it? A correspondent was told by his father, who witnessed the throw, that it was paced out rather than measured. Until 1938 it was also included a throw by an Australian aborigine called King Billy in 1872. According to the "notable gentleman" who witnessed and measured it, he hurled it at 427ft 6in, but they knocked off the 7½ ft because they were using a cotton tape and not a measuring chain. Has poor King Billy been unjustly treated by history? It is up to Keith Pont to sort the matter out once and for all by throwing 429 ft and more. He has resolved to have a crack at it this winter.

Swing low

Why should the devil have all the best games? Northwood Hills Evangelical church in north London converted itself into an indoor golf driving range for six months this summer, and now plans to convert the church into a dance hall. The church, which has a large hall, was used for many years as a place where the kind that don't shatter stained glass windows. The aim was to bring non-church-goers through the doors. I hope the scheme comes to succeed. It ought to, for golfers know more about praying than most sportsmen.

High, wide and Hanson

John Bell, City Editor, on the tycoon for whom takeovers are a way of life

For a man whose main claim to fame was as actress Audrey Hepburn's fiancé, James, now Lord, Hanson has come a long way. The 6ft 4in Yorkshireman once made headlines as a debt-ridden, today it is said that he buys and sells whole industries at the flick of his fingers. An exaggeration - but not much.

A few days ago, his company, Hanson Trust, sold Courage, Britain's sixth largest brewers, for £1,400 million. The deal was remarkable on a number of scores. Firstly, Hanson had owned it for a mere five months. Secondly, he sold at an astonishingly favourable price. Thirdly, the deal represents a deliberate break-up of one of the country's best-known businesses, Imperial Group.

Not many years ago, it would have been politically, socially and financially unacceptable for any aggressive company to mount an assault on an enterprise as big, as successful and as well-known as Imperial, with the sole aim of breaking it up for a swift profit. But for Hanson and his colleagues, buying and selling bigger and yet bigger companies may have become more important than actually running them. It is

something that he has learned to do with astonishing success.

Starting with only £150,000 of his family's money - made out of road haulage - he has created a collection of companies here, in Europe and especially in the US that together rank among Britain's biggest half dozen corporate empires. Anyone who put £1,000 into his first venture in 1964 would now be sitting on £500,000. Hanson's recent wheeling and dealing has created controversy in the City, but he was regarded as conventional, almost to the point of boredom, during the heyday of stock market operators like Jim Slater and Sir James Goldsmith. He seemed to have a penchant for boring companies in well-established industries, provided that they had surplus assets available for sale, generated liberal amounts of cash, and showed a reasonable return on capital during the ups and downs of a business cycle.

So while others became stained with the label "asset-stripper", Hanson quietly ran solid manu-

facturing businesses like bricks, batteries and engineering products.

But towards the end of the 1970s the takeovers, and sales became bigger and more frequent. And as the targets became greater and more grand, so did the profits. Perhaps the greatest coup to date was the takeover in January of the US conglomerate SCM, best known in Britain for its typewriters, for \$830 million. Hanson Trust immediately began carving it up at an immense profit. By selling the SCM paint operation to ICI and other minor disposals, Hanson has recouped the whole of the purchase price. In other words, in a matter of months, Hanson has gained control of a major office equipment and chemicals company at almost no cost.

After the sale of Courage with its 5,000 pubs, the score-sheet on the break-up of Imperial is looking almost as remarkable. For a net cost of £1,000 million, Hanson has companies which last year made profits of about £200 mil-

lion - superb going by City standards.

With its balance sheet immensely strengthened by all these disposals, there is hardly a business in the UK which Hanson could not afford to buy. Corporate finance experts now reckon that with its current cash and borrowing facilities, a bid of over £4,000 million is possible.

But in the City there is increasing unease. Is this recent success real, or is it the hyper-activity of a strategy which demands bigger and more frequent takeovers, closures and disposals? Does it really benefit the economy, and where might Hanson-style mega-bids and mega-breakups lead if allowed untrammelled freedom? Lord Hanson and his closest supporters defend their record stoutly on the grounds that they are merely identifying under-priced or under-utilized industrial assets, and that companies joining the group benefit considerably from the Hanson treatment.

The judgement of history must wait until Hanson and his long-standing partner, Sir Gordon White - both in their sixties - hand over the reins to others. Until then the jury is out.

The official Soviet cultural weekly *Sovetskaya Kul'tura* has published excerpts from a new play which is expected to be performed by groups all over the Soviet Union in the coming months. It is called *Sarokhany*, and its subject is the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

In committing a historical event to drama so soon after its happening, the writer, Vladimir Gubarev, has revived a practice common in the 1920s in the Soviet Union when the revolution and civil war were the subject of plays taken around the country by groups of actors.

The practice went into disuse, largely because the weight of the cultural bureaucracy made it hard to publish, and then stage, quick reaction works. The publication of the Chernobyl play is tantamount to a statement by the Soviet authorities that change is afoot, both in cultural policy and in policy on information.

What is unusual about the published excerpts of the play (which may not be true when the complete version becomes available) is the absence of the exaggerated heroic tone common to many Soviet press reports of the disaster. There is criticism and pessimism. The pre-eminence of science in Soviet society (embodied in the figure of the physicist) is called in question. So is a system which demands speed before responsibility, and prefers official predictability in their dullness and loyalty to those who question orders.

Even in the short published excerpts there are allusions to cowardice and attempted cover-ups and public ignorance about the dangers of radiation. The peasant woman's references to wormwood and gall and the apocalypse are based in fact. Rumours about the imminent end of the world, associated in part with the name

Chernobyl - which in Russian means a variety of plant akin to wormwood - circulated widely in the Soviet Union after the accident.

Against the conventions that have been broken, however, many have been upheld. The uneducated people, the peasant woman, the general's driver and the power station worker are sympathetically drawn and show much common sense after the accident.

While posing questions about how Soviet society is organized and functions, the play can in no way be regarded as subversive. Rather, it handles many of the problems Mikhail Gorbachev and others have been making in the wake of the accident: the calls for more openness - but not too much - and the recognition that the authorities have a responsibility to people as well as to official targets.

Mary Dejevsky

Inquest on Chernobyl

Scene: The experimental section of the Institute of Radiation Safety. A large reception area with a number of numbered cubicles behind.

Ann: Red lights come on, the distant wail of a siren.

Ann: Petrova (on the phone). Impossible! How many... I don't believe it... We thought it was only a practice... Yes, all three of us are here, (puts the phone down). An accident at reactor No 4 at the atomic power station. A bad fire. Several dozen people hurt. Some with radiation burns. They'll be here in a few minutes... (to her assistants) It's a red alert... No, not war... An explosion at an atomic reactor. No, not an atomic explosion. The red background gets brighter and brighter. Sergeyev enters followed by two workers carrying a stretcher. A driver follows them. Sergeyev (to the driver): How do you feel?

Driver: All right.

Sergeyev: Dizzy?

Driver: Only for a moment.

Ann: Petrova (to Sergeyev): He's got a slight rash on his face. How much has he had?

Sergeyev: I don't know. He was waiting for his boss - a general in the Internal Police - at reactor No 4. He waited three hours. There was as much as 500 roentgen an hour in places.

Assistant: Why did he wait?

Sergeyev: He was waiting for his boss. He had to.

Assistant: But there was radiation...

Sergeyev: My dear, radiation has no smell and no colour. And the bosses are used to being where the action is.

Enter Aunt Klava, a peasant woman, a physicist and several others.

Sergeyev: So there was an explosion after all?

Pititsyna: Of course. It's just that some people need to prove there wasn't, that there was only a fire.

Sergeyev: Is there really such a big difference?

Pititsyna: A vast difference. An explosion counts as a crime, but a fire is just negligence. That is why the procurator was on the scene immediately. Mind you, for them (turning to the cubicles) it doesn't matter any more.

Klava: I've got to get back to my house... Dasha the cow hasn't been milked.

Assistant: Don't worry. That'll be looked after.

Klava: The hens haven't been fed. There was only me and Dasha. And she hasn't been milked... she'll die.

Assistant: I'll phone to ask someone to milk her. Of course, I will.

Klava: And have them feed the hens as well. Dasha's all I have. She's old and sick, but she feeds me... They told me there would be wormwood... and the river water would turn bitter.

Assistant: Wormwood... rivers flowing with gall... Is she delirious?

Pititsyna: It's the apocalypse. You start thinking about God and the Devil.

Assistant: How did she get here?

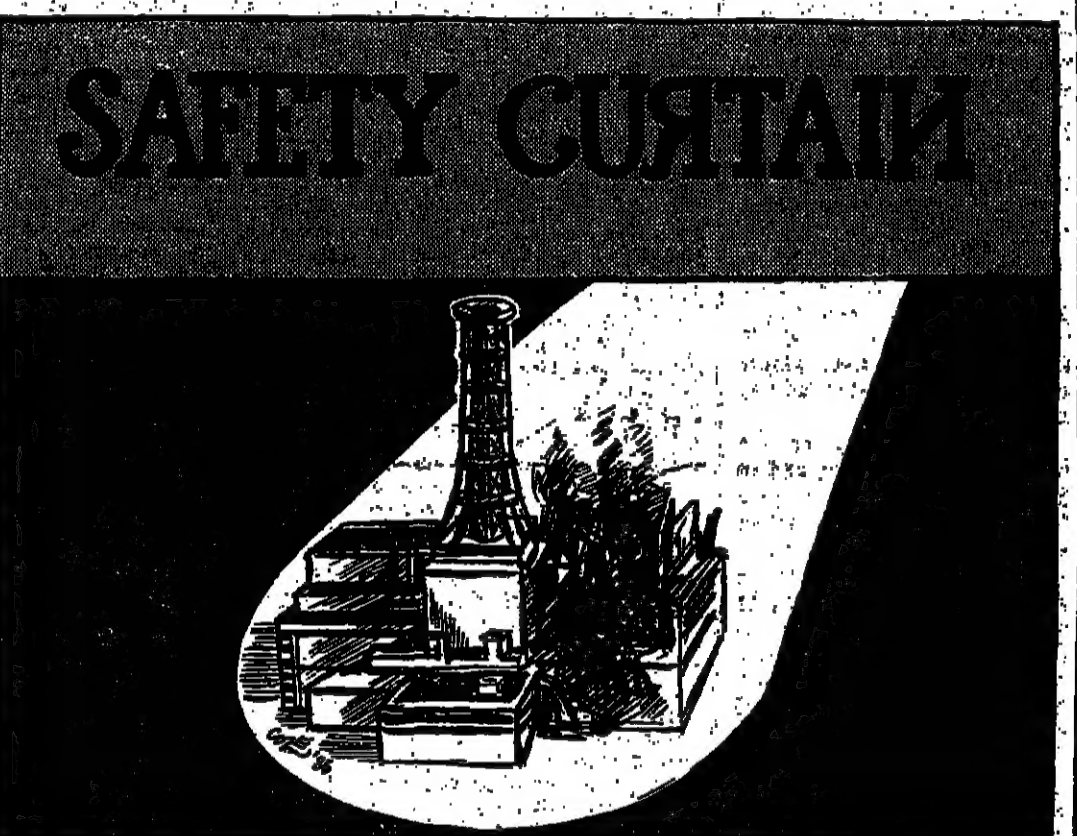
Pititsyna: There was fall-out from the reactor. She was working in her garden. The cow was nearby, and the hens. The doses they got were fifty times above the danger level. Everything was dying, but the hens seemed not to be affected - except that they became very aggressive. Started attacking the rabbits.

Assistant: What about the about the...

Pititsyna: Don't tell her. Her Dasha and all the other livestock in the zone were slaughtered. It had to be done.

The general comes out of his cubicle.

General: The water here is dreadful. I washed my hair, combed it, and it's coming out in clumps... (to the physicist): It's



all your fault, you physicists. You think atomic energy is the future of civilization... bombs, reactors, power stations... you've invented them all.

Physicist: Why are you blaming us? A reactor is a miracle. But you have to treat it properly. It can take a lot, but there's a limit. Just like there is with people.

General: What do you mean?

Physicist: I could be wrong, but I think the safety system was shut off by someone.

General: But who?

Physicist: That is a very difficult question...

Driver: Some senior official.

Physicist: Yes. An ordinary operator couldn't take that decision by himself.

The stage darkens. The red flame burns even more brightly.

Radiation monitor: I had no idea how much radiation they had been exposed to. I thought it was less, but it was 200...

Procurator: Do you not have a duplicate set of machines?

Monitor: Where could we get them from? The ones we had had been repaired over and over again, and they were about 30 years old.

Procurator: But it was a new power station. Only ten years old.

Monitor: That's neither here nor there. Our machines came from a warehouse somewhere. They were sent to us rather than being written off. We copied, so long as there wasn't an accident. We mended and made do. And we were well organized. Commissions from Moscow came to check. They always found everything in order.

Operator: You may not have known what was going on. But I knew. I saw the graphic red-hot. Pieces were falling on the floor of the reactor. They were bright blue and glowing. Even without your meters it was clear that it was not 20, not 200, but 1,000. Can I ask something. When did they evacuate the town?

Procurator: On Sunday. In two and a half hours flat. They got a thousand buses and took everyone away.

Operator: But why didn't they announce it right away on the radio?

Procurator: They were waiting for the government commission.

Operator: Why? Would it have decided something different? Why wait?

Procurator: No one could take the decision.

Operator: Couldn't, or wouldn't?

Procurator: Didn't.

Operator: You ought to be asking

why they didn't, not quizzing us. The problem was we were always in a hurry; we pledged to have the reactor finished three months early, and in operation two days early. We asked four times for new meters, but no one was in any hurry at the top... The builders rushed the whole thing through. Underneath the reactor you'll find hunks of concrete, a couple of mechanical diggers, and all for the sake of some sort of award. Who needs that sort of speed?

Procurator (to the general): It was your signature on the document accepting reactor No 4, wasn't it?

General: Not only No 4, all of them. I have worked here for 15 years.

Procurator: Did you know about the fire in the textile factory in Bukhara twelve years ago?

General: It is a textbook case...

Procurator: Yes or no?

General: Of course.

Procurator: The roof was made of easily inflammable material. It burned in five or six minutes. The guilty parties were punished.

General: Yes, but...

Procurator: Why did you sign the acceptance documents when the roof was made of the same material and you knew that it was forbidden to use that material in industrial projects?

General: I objected... I told the heads of the ministry.

Procurator: But you still signed?

General: But you know what level a power station is accepted at? My signature was a pure formality.

Procurator: The fire in the machine-room was no formality. It went up like a gunpowder. That sort of roof was banned twelve years ago. Why was it used?

Head: There was a lot of it in the warehouse. We had a deadline to meet.

General: If I had not signed, someone else would have done. Or do you only sign things you can sign with a clear conscience?

Procurator: Were you told that there was not just a fire, but an explosion as well?

General: It was hard to find out immediately.

Procurator: Did you inform the relevant people about the explosion? Yes or no?

General: I called the Ukraine Council of Ministers. I was told: "Fear makes everything seem bigger. Mind your own business; your own business is putting the fire out as quickly as possible." So that's what I did.

Procurator: Why did the firemen

not have protective clothing? Not one of them. According to the regulations everyone at the fire station must be provided with it.

General: Yes, nothing.

Head of power station: No one thought it would be needed; it was unthinkable.

Procurator: You mean you were economizing?

General: I refuse to answer that question.

Procurator (to head of power station): You were not at the power station at the time, is that correct?

Head: I could not get back in time. But I was there at the beginning.

Procurator: Did you realize what had happened?

Head: Nearly. In general.

Procurator: And you left?

Head: I got out. You understand...

Procurator: I know that your grandchildren were at home, by themselves, and you got in your car, picked up the grandchildren and went... You understood better than anybody what had happened. Yet the very next morning there were children playing football outside. And people were selling fresh cucumbers on the streets... Let me ask you something quite different. I have seen your papers. At school, at the institute, you weren't especially bright. But you were the only one of your group to become director of a power station. The others didn't make it. Why?

Head: I worked. Probably harder than the others, so I got ahead.

Procurator: I didn't have any "helping hand". Papa is not a minister, my mother-in-law is a worker. No one helped me, I did it all by myself.

Procurator: But why was the previous head of the power station dismissed?

Head: Everyone knows. He had four reprimands for disobeying instructions.

Procurator: But they talk about him with respect, affection even.

Head: I know, but he was a difficult character.

Procurator: Of course. He didn't obey all his orders. He challenged them. Incidentally, he was dead against accepting reactor No 4.

Head: I didn't object, but I made requests, wrote letters. I worked through the usual channels. And I didn't get any reprimands. Is that so very bad?

Procurator: But your predecessor had four - and not a single serious incident. You had none, and an accident...

Michael Kinsley

A cynic's guide to passing exams

Each year more than a million American high school students take a half-day exam called the scholastic aptitude test (SAT). The principal test for admission to university, the SAT is roughly equivalent to the British A-level, with two interesting differences.

First, it is composed and administered not by any government authority, but by a private concern called the Educational Testing Service (ETS), which runs exams for everything from private preparatory school admission to certification as a professional golfer.

Second, unlike the A-level, the SAT is completely multiple-choice and graded by computer. This is a practical necessity, but it is also central to the claim that the SAT is "objective". Despite ETS's protestations that the SAT "is not a test of some inborn and unchanging capacity", the cultural consensus is that the SAT ranks everyone in America on a brainpower scale from 200 to 800.

Few college admissions actually turn on SAT scores. The real social function of the SAT is as a ritual celebration of America's treasured belief in itself as a meritocracy.

Until 1979, ETS was all-powerful. Its questions, answers, and score calculations were beyond challenge. In that year, New York State passed a so-called "truth-in-testing" law, giving outsiders access to ETS's questions and allegedly correct answers. That began a process of demystification, which culminated this month with publication of *Cracking the System*, by Adam Robinson and John Katzman, inventors of an SAT coaching course called the Princeton Review.

SAT coaching has become big business. What is so subversive about the Princeton Review is that it starts from the premise that SAT measures nothing important. Rather, it's "simply a test of how good you are at taking ETS tests".

By ruthlessly ignoring all considerations of genuine aptitude, and concentrating instead on the gimmicks and flaws and comically predictable habits of mind that are built into every ETS exam, the authors claim to produce dramatic increases in students' scores.

One hilarious insight is that a multiple-choice question is merely one that the average person gets wrong. The test writer's challenge is to make sure the average person gets it wrong, rather than getting it right at random, or right for the wrong reason.

The only practical way to do this is by putting in so-called

"distractors" - answers that look right, but aren't. For mechanical reasons, the questions in each section of the test start out "easy" and get "hard". The trick, therefore, is to look for the obvious answer and choose it if the question is near the beginning of the section, but eliminate it if it is near the end.

For example, one possible answer to a maths question is often "It cannot be determined from the information given." If the question is near the end, you can be sure this is the wrong answer. If the question is near the beginning, it has a 50-50 chance of being right.

That's just one way to use knowledge of how the test works to outsmart it (an attempt to measure anything else. Even funnier is the advice for answering questions on "reading comprehension", which consist of a passage followed by questions about it.

"You should not attempt to understand the passage too thoroughly - in other words, you should not try to 'comprehend it', the authors advise. Just go through and circle words like 'but', 'although', 'however', 'yet', 'despite', etc. Seventy per cent of the answers are 'hidden' behind words like these that reverse the logical flow of a sentence.

After accusations of cultural bias in the 1960s, ETS began adding an "ethnic passage" to each SAT. Don't even read it, says Princeton Review. "The tone of the ethnic passage is invariably positive or inspirational. Answer choices that express negative or unflattering opinions about minorities, therefore, can always be eliminated."

Likewise anything negative about professional or cultural types. "You would be exceedingly unlikely to find an SAT reading passage about unearthing doctors, ruthless lawyers or unscrupulous scientists."

Cracking the System is subversive on both the practical and the intellectual levels. As a practical matter, the secrets available for \$9.95 in this book will wreak havoc with the test results. Intellectually, these secrets undermine the pretension that the SAT measures anything important.

The best you can say for this monument to meritocracy, after *Cracking the System*, is that it tests a certain animal cunning that may be a better measure of future success in American society than ETS-style aptitude, anyway.

The author is editor of New Republic. He will be writing on this page every fortnight.

Woodrow Wyatt

Calling up an SDP winner

When the SDP was launched I had much sympathy for it and was almost tempted to support it. Most of its founders were old friends who shared my view that the Labour Party in the years to come was irretrievably lost to the extreme left. It was not the social democratic party of Atlee or Gaitskell; even the party of Harold Wilson could make some claim to containing the Militants, Marxists, and Trotskyists who, after the next election, will dominate the Parliamentary Labour Party.

Britain, broadly, is a moderate country, with a vaguely Conservative half and a vaguely left half. By its extremism, Labour had clearly begun to forfeit the support of the latter. The SDP, I hoped, would take over from Labour the representation of those who are not normally Conservative, though often inclined to vote that way, and offer the electorate a solid, social democratic party - one which, the West German equivalent used to be, striving with the support of the unions, to create more wealth before distributing what was in the kitty, thus weakening the prospects of the nation becoming richer.

It is not working out like that. The SDP is sound on trade union reform and, more or less, on defence. But it has been badly bitten by the redistribution bug, convinced that sharing out state wealth is better than making it grow. In the US the Democratic Party, with some parallels to the SDP, has welcomed the Reagan administration's new tax proposals, under which most would pay no more than 15 per cent of their income and no one would pay more than 28 per cent. Americans realize that the more millions there are the more the standard of living will rise throughout the nation. It was predictable that Labour would oppose this reasoning, but it is near fatal for the SDP to do so.

The SDP's grandiose scheme for raising £7 billion extra revenue for redistribution to the poorer may have superficial appeal. David Owen proclaims that it will touch the conscience of the nation. He is obviously affected by opinion polls suggesting that people are prepared to pay more tax if the money goes on various aspects of social welfare. That is dreamland. Everyone likes to be thought good natured when the question is posed, but faced with the reality of what it would mean to them, they react differently.

out on Thursday, a two-child family with the man earning £8,000 a year and his wife £4,000 a year would find themselves £200 out of pocket. Those families where the man works but the wife stays at home would not be disadvantaged until they got to £17,000, after which they would be clobbered. Working couples would suffer at all levels, it all smacks of the old, unpopular redistribution policies which shuffled disposable incomes around without giving the incentive to increase them and the nation's wealth.

Higher taxes would force up wages and inflation. The public is aware that a compulsory income policy - the SDP's proposed cure - would be as disastrous as any previous incomes policies.

Then, who is to be leader? The Alliance cannot bring itself to say in advance of the election. David Steel is seen as more lightweight than Neil Kinnock. Alliance voters would prefer Owen. But there are certain to be more Liberal MPs in the next Parliament than SDP, so Owen would have to be Number Two.

el Kinsley
s guide to
g exams



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DISASTER IN THE AIR

When the British Airways 737 jet crashed last August at Manchester, eventually taking the lives of 53 passengers and two stewardesses, it was at first thought to be a survivable incident. As the coroner pointed out yesterday, there was no crash impact, no violent movement and no damage to the aircraft's interior such as to make the evacuation of passengers difficult or impossible. Moreover, as he also pointed out, both crew and rescuers behaved with conspicuous courage.

What caused the appalling loss of life was an unpredictable and almost unbelievable succession of accidents, errors and mishaps. As the plane was taxiing to take off, a repaired combustion can ruptured in the engine and burst through an under wing access panel allowing hundreds of gallons of fuel to spray onto the hot engine. That caused an explosion and a fire that spread to the rest of the aircraft.

The captain, hearing the sound but thinking it was a burst tyre, aborted the take-off — a decision he made in 0.7 of a second — and taxied off the runway. This put the plane in way of a light crosswind which drove smoke and fire back into the plane's interior, blinding and choking the passengers.

The confusion inside was worsened when inflammable seating material caught fire, giving off toxic fumes, and one exit door jammed. Despite that the crew, including two stewardesses who died in the attempt, helped 82 people to escape from the plane. Firemen arrived only a minute after the crash, but they found

that three hydrants contained neither water nor foam. According to medical evidence, however, that did not contribute to the loss of life since anyone still inside the fuselage after two minutes had either died or suffered irretrievable poisoning.

It is plain from the catalogue of events revealed in the coroner's court that unforeseeable mishaps rather than errors were by far the main causes of this tragedy. It was simply not known beforehand, for instance, that a light crosswind could cause such trouble in the event of a plane's being on fire. Now, however, it is known and British Airways pilots have instructions to take the direction of the wind, however light, into account.

Three human errors were revealed, however. The first was that some hydrants at the airport were dry. The coroner yesterday, pointing out that this failure had fortunately not caused any loss of life, declined to "ferret out" the individual responsible, but allocated broad responsibility between the city engineer's office, the airports authority and the contractors working there. Since lives might have been lost because of such an oversight, the three bodies must publicly demonstrate that nothing similar could occur again.

Secondly, one exit door failed because the lanyard intended to release the passenger's escape chute after the door was fully open, actually released it too soon and jammed the exit. Tests have since shown that the lanyard works perfectly if the

door is opened slowly and carefully, fails if the door is opened hastily. Since the plane was on fire, haste was the order of the day and door jammed.

The final error was the most significant. Pratt and Whitney, the engine manufacturers, had sent out letters notifying airlines that three minor faults commonly experienced with similar engines could indicate more serious flaws within the combustion can. And, in fact, these minor faults had been detected and rectified in 17 incidents over eighteen months on the port engine that eventually exploded. But because that port engine was fitted with the latest modified can, British Airways officials believed that the minor incidents did not indicate the more serious flaws which they believed were a risk only in engines with the unmodified can. These 17 faults, in retrospect, should have alerted British Airways to a possible risk.

It is a macabre thought that the progress of safety in air transport has often been advanced by the evidence collected following major air crashes. Twelve major recommendations to improve aircraft safety have already been made by the Civil Aviation Authority in the light of the Manchester crash. The dangers of inflammable seating material have also been pointed out to those responsible for manufacturing busses and cars which have a far greater chance of being involved in a fire. It is sad that these advances for the rest of us should have come at so high a price.

FAIR EXCHANGE?

Most of Britain shares two preconceptions about the City of London. One is that finance pulls the strings of industry rather than serving it. There is certainly some truth in that. The other is that the stock-brokers and merchant bankers go about their traditional bowler-hatted ways, enjoying short working days, long lunches and the protection of a cosy club while insisting that productive industry should change, cut jobs and over-heads, and work harder.

That has changed to a far greater degree than is, even now, generally imagined. The City revolution, though conceived in expansion rather than decline and covered in money rather than blood, is as comprehensive as anything experienced in the great industrial centres.

Only three years ago, the Stock Exchange agreed to abandon fixed commissions on stock and share dealing in return for the dropping of an action in the Restrictive Practices Court. At the time, many individual members thought their council leaders, notably the Stock Exchange chairman Sir Nicholas Goodison, had gone too far. Votes on subsequent reforms were strongly contested.

The logic and momentum of change has proved so strong, however, that earlier this week, the Stock Exchange Council effectively agreed to reconstitute the Exchange, shedding the right of individual members to voting control. The club is about to be

disbanded. Five weeks before the new more competitive trading system starts in the "big bang", the Exchange is almost unrecognizable.

Only one of the leading firms has remained independent. Most are controlled either by British and foreign banks or by new financial houses, often built around merchant banks.

The departure of the individual as voting member (as already, in many cases, as partner with personal liability) was occasioned by the equal merger of the Stock Exchange with the International Securities Regulatory Organization, an infant grouping set up by firms outside the Exchange to regulate their activities under the new Financial Services Bill. The majority were overseas houses, predominantly American and Japanese, which could not have hoped to enter the old club.

That the Stock Exchange should agree to such a merger, barely conceivable to most of its members only a year ago, is a reflection of the new priorities. Britain needed to have a single unified market if it was to compete with other financial centres in the new electronic era of twenty-four hour worldwide trading which has already engulfed currency and international bond markets and is rapidly taking over the dealing in shares of the world's leading companies.

The new Stock Exchange will be run by the firms that will constitute its membership, many ultimately controlled

from New York, Zurich or Tokyo. It is an imaginative and far-sighted concept. But where does it leave the individual? Many stockbrokers, young and old, are much wealthier and have unimagined corporate career opportunities — but mostly as employees.

The responsibility of the individual to his client and to his fellow club members, symbolized by face to face trading and the principle that my word is my bond, were just as much a part of the old system, as were the old divisions of function to minimize conflicts of interest. The much-delayed Financial Services Bill will eventually put a new systematic framework of supervised self-regulation in their place. More important, perhaps, is whether individuals will stick to the principle rather than merely the — sometimes indefinite — letter of the law as their loyalty switches to fiercely competing firms.

The City has every chance of becoming again the most successful financial centre in the world. It will certainly be able to give investors and companies a much more efficient service, just as the changes in manufacturing industry have transformed efficiency. As in the boardrooms of industry, however, the parlours of finance will have to develop a new but just as strong sense of personal morality and responsibility if the change is to be more than an mixed blessing.

FOURTH LEADER

A Spanish tax inspector, it is reported, boarded a Mediterranean cruise ship incognito, to check, on behalf of the fiscal authorities, whether returns made by the cruise company, in respect of food and drink consumed, tallied with the reality. No doubt feeling that if he wore his normal business suit he would lack conviction, he donned his brightest holiday garb and went aboard.

Two things followed quickly. First, his disguise proved to be inadequate; he was unmasked immediately. Second, it turned out the ship had a substantial complement of British holiday-makers aboard.

Merrily (at least we presume it was merrily) they compelled him to walk the plank; moreover, when he had walked it, and was swimming round and round, doubtless wondering what to do next, some of the merrier girls on board dived in after him and merrily removed his shorts, having earlier removed the top half of their bathing costumes.

The inspector thought it best not to attempt to complete the voyage, swam to the nearest beach, and made his way home

trouserless, a sadder and a wiser man, he rose the morning morn.

We ask our readers to believe that we think the behaviour of the passengers was outrageous and indefensible. A tax inspector has a necessary and important job to do, and if he is an unpopular figure it is doubly unfair, for it is not he who imposes the taxes he is obliged to collect. The more we think about it, the more shocked we are. Only, and much to our embarrassment, we keep finding ourselves looking out of the window and starting to giggle.

There is something in the picture of a trouserless tax inspector swimming for dear life which brings out the worst, or, at the least the most irresponsible, in us.

A man comes to check the accounts, and shortly afterwards is seen trying to thumb a lift from a passing dolphin; he goes to great pains to find the brightest pair of Bermuda shorts the local boutiques can supply, and is obliged to go home without them, and indeed without any certainty that his superiors will agree

that the money he paid for them was incurred wholly, necessarily and exclusively in the pursuit of his official duties. (And if not, what about his insurance company? Most insurance companies would call that an Act of God, and they wouldn't confine themselves to our modest giggle, either; guffaws would be the order of the day.)

We have never actually thought that the sight of a fat man, even one wearing a top-hat, falling over on a banana-skin was funny. But we can accept the metaphor, and we suppose that the thought of a taxman suffering hideous wounds to his dignity is the most extreme form of it.

The taxman represents inescapable necessity, he embodies scrupulous respectability, he symbolizes the world of the lot and title. And now he has been pushed into the sea and debagged; is nothing sacred?

Probably not. This episode can be regarded as a further indication that mere anarchy is loosed upon the world, or as a welcome break in the gloomy news; as we have hinted, we tend to hold both views simultaneously. — meanwhile, the taxman cometh, and goeth.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Prison sentences for rugby violence

From Mr Edward Grayson
Sir, The Court of Appeal's confirmation of David Bishop's prison sentence, albeit suspended, for rugby field violence (report, September 18) directs attention to two crucial but separate issues which may be easily overlooked. One concerns the wider issue of procedure on criminal appeals; the other is the legal position of clubs and committees on sporting violence.

During the course of counsel's address to the Court of Appeal on behalf of Bishop it became clear that the overworked judges in the criminal division had not been assisted as they should have been by the staff behind the scenes. Sporting violence, happily, does not come before the courts as often as it could if every playing field assault were prosecuted. Nevertheless, two landmark decisions are available to anyone concerned to take them.

In one, the first-ever recorded prosecution of a rugby player for a field offence, a South Wales jury convicted a player who broke an opponent's leg in a game. He received a 9-month suspended sentence (*R v Billingham*, 1978).

The other was the first-ever custodial sentence imposed upon a player for an offence on a rugby field. At Croydon Crown Court the player was sentenced to six months, reduced on appeal to two months (*R v Gilling*, 1980). The injuries were more serious, but the principle of a custodial sentence for field violence was established.

On hostile terms with the police

From Mr D. C. T. Frewer
Sir, Your leader on the St Paul's riot (September 13) criticized those who regard the annual of police in their local community with hostility but failed to take into account the physical remoteness of the police from most people. This is an unfortunate, nay dangerous, result of modern police management practices.

Police are now increasingly based in large, centralised stations, travel around in cars or on powerful motor-cycles whilst wearing in the latter case forbidding-looking uniforms and equipment; and are often seen on foot only in large groups. The superficial analogy with the armed forces becomes ever more obvious and their separateness from us as individuals ever more real.

One answer to this social alienation must be a return to locally-based policing by bobbies on their beat or foot, in all localities, not just a few. Budget priorities should be changed to getting more manpower on the ground in all "manors", rather than more equipment.

A few years ago we lived in Tokyo where the police have all sorts of sophisticated equipment and their riot squads are menacingly efficient but where they put great emphasis on the "Koban" — small police boxes manned at all times by one or two policemen with a bicycle — which are located in every small ward. Those policemen have to know their "manor" and visit every home in it at least once a year. As a result "ask a policeman" is still a natural attitude there.

Yours faithfully,
D. C. T. FREWER,
Windrush Lodge,
Middleton Park,
Middleton Stoney,
Nr Bicester, Oxfordshire.

Daniloff affair

From Ms Lesley Chamberlain
Sir, The US compromised its strongest political position over the Zakharov-Daniloff affair to ensure that an individual deeply strained by his detention without trial was transferred from a Soviet prison, where he now accuses his keepers of mental torture.

If the decision to equate his case with that of the spy Zakharov was taken for purely humanitarian reasons, to release him from unnecessary suffering, as US spokesmen maintain, then contrary to your editorial (September 15) it does matter, because it reveals a redeeming sense of priority and a pattern of behaviour markedly superior to the

KGB's hostage-taking of an irritating veteran Moscow journalist.

In the eyes of the world this should not weaken the US stance at any forthcoming summit but rather invite sympathy for such failures to achieve agreement with the Soviet side as are bound to occur.

Not much light is refracted from the murky espionage world, but imaginatively John Le Carré's novels have reminded us to appreciate concern for an individual whenever it occurs, for rarely to expect it from either side. For once the United States has done better than you say.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE CHAMBERLAIN,
2 Daysbrook Road, SW2,
September 15.

BBC building plan

From the President of the Royal Institute of British Architects
Sir, There is growing interest, curiosity and concern about the BBC's plans for the White City. Stuart Lipton wrote to you on this subject (August 23). The BBC is a uniquely important cultural institution and it should continue to set a good example to the nation and to the world in its architectural patronage.

I appreciate that the White City development must take place within stringent conditions of time and cost; there are also specialised operational requirements affecting the total plans with which the first administrative phase must conform. However, these constraints need not inhibit the appointment of an outstanding architect with the authority to see through a distinguished and coherent solution.

The Royal Institute has serious misgivings (which are wholly shared by the Royal Fine Art Commission) about the way the Corporation appear to be setting about things. It must be hoped they will still find it possible to get it right.

Yours faithfully,
L. A. L. ROLLAND, President,
Royal Institute of British Architects,
66 Portland Place, W1.

Pollution processes

From Professor P. C. G. Isaac
Sir, I can understand the Minister of the Environment wishing to publicise the Government's decision to fit scrubbers to three power-stations in Britain. Mr Waldegrave is inaccurate, however, in saying (report, September 12) that these are the first scrubbers to be fitted to British power stations.

Battersea was required by law to fit a scrubber in the late 1920s, the flue gases from Fulham power station were scrubbed by the Howdon-ICI process in the 1930s (bombed during the war and never replaced) and a half-chimney wet scrubber producing ammonium sulphate and elemental sulphur was fitted to a power-station in the Midlands in the 1950s. I believe that the Retulph process, using a semi-coke for dry scrubbing, was tried out in the 1960s on the half-chimney scale.

It seems to me that these processes having proved unsatisfactory for one reason or another what we are now seeing is a reinvention of a — possibly differently shaped — wheel; let us hope that it is more successful this time.

Yours faithfully,
PETER C. G. ISAAC,
10 Woodcroft Road,
Wylam, Northumberland.

Battle of Britain

From Lord Dowding
Sir, I read with great interest and welcome, of course, today's letters from Dr Brian Porter and Air Commodore Chisholm, and have some grounds for hope that a suitable permanent memorial will one day soon be forthcoming.

I write to protest mildly against the evident English belief that recognition, 16 years after death, in some way compensates the individual concerned for the ingratitude shown to him during life.

I think that my father, Air Chief Marshal Lord Dowding (1882-1970), would like to have been promoted "Marshal of the Royal Air Force", and this indeed would have carried concomitant financial advantage.

But in the event this considerable public figure was retired on a pension not far exceeding £1,500 pa, and this in the days preceding indexation. His later years were clouded by financial insufficiency. I cannot imagine the USA

Training ordinands

From the Reverend P. H. Vaughan
Sir, Clifford Longley's article (September 1) on the inadequacies of the Church of England's structures for training its ordinands failed to notice that at least a quarter of the Church's ordinands do not train in residential colleges at all.

The annual statistics published by the Advisory Council for the Church's Ministry show that in October 1985, 740 men were in training for the priesthood in the colleges, but a further 255 were in training on the regional non-residential courses which now network England.

That is to say, 25.62 per cent of priests then in training were not resident in colleges. If those in training for accredited lay ministry (mostly deaconesses) are also taken into account, the percentage of those training on courses rises to 31.4 per cent.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK H. VAUGHAN,
Principal,
East Midlands Ministry Training Course,
Department of Adult Education,
University Park, Nottingham.

Reform of Unesco

From the Director of the United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Sir, As an association which is genuinely concerned to see Unesco become a more streamlined, a more democratic and a less bureaucratic organisation, we would make the following comments on Diana Goddes' report on Unesco reform (September 10).

1. All member-states have been consulted about the organization's priorities via a questionnaire, the results of which will be presented to the current meeting of the executive board by the Director-General. Nearly 28 per cent of Unesco programme activities are international, organisations, traditionally attended meetings of the OAU and of the non-aligned movement. It is in our view scurrilous to imply, as she does,

that representatives of Unesco were sent especially to these meetings as personal ambassadors for Mr M'Bow.

4. Your report failed to represent the judgement of those countries most closely concerned with the progress of reform, all of whom are represented on the executive board: Japan, West Germany, Canada, France and Sweden. Instead it gave priority to the viewpoint of an individual who is not an active participant in the executive board meeting and whose desire to see the reform process succeed is open to question.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM HARPER, Director,
United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,
3 Whitehall Court, SW1,
September 16

ON THIS DAY

SEPTEMBER 20 1935

The "worthy hope" expressed below, in the final sentence, was frustrated by the Second World War, but 50 years on, according to the Automobile Association, much of the road is motorway. The distance from London to Constantinople is about 1,900 miles, and the usual route is through Germany and Austria, thence via Belgrade and Sofia.

Motoring to Constantinople

A new line is being drawn across Europe, beginning in London and ending at the Golden Horn. For the first nine miles or so it is well defined. There is no mistaking the London-Dover road, or its continuation from Calais to Cologne; or the fine German road that goes as straight as a lance from Cologne through Frankfurt and Nuremberg. Difficulties begin only when Vienna is passed. The short stretches of good road on the outskirts of Central European and Balkan cities are mostly linked by miles of cart-tracks that have a way either of disappearing under mud or ballooning splendidly with dust. Rivers have to be forded at many places. Gradients are erratic; and shoulders and deep ruts give alarming exercise to the springs of a car. But, where now most indolent, the line is to be continued firmly. Nine Governments along the route are co-operating to make a wide and standard motorway that will run from Calais to Constantinople. An international conference on the subject ended in Budapest yesterday. Last week the representatives of the various Governments, including the British, met there to draw up an agreed policy. This week further details have been discussed by the Alliance Internationale de Tourisme. Roadbuilding or reconstruction has already begun in Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, and Rumania, where the Governments have voted large sums of money for the project. Each country will naturally build and pay for the stretch of road within its frontier — as indeed it could have done before ever the scheme was agreed. What is gained by the international agreement is the knowledge that the road will be continued at the other side of the frontier and that traffic will be encouraged by easier Customs arrangements, by refuelling depots at regular intervals, by standardized signs over the whole two thousand miles length of the road, and by the service of interpreters and guides at each frontier. The road, by launching at Budapest, is the most direct in road-making are now the quickest to see the advantages of a coherent and cooperative scheme.

It is expected that the last link of the road will have been made, the last dust-bath abolished, by 1938. A motorist would then be able to leave London with one set of Customs papers and, travelling only by main road, reach Constantinople for the morning bag of Europe there is testimony to fine feats of engineering. The opportunities for peaceful communication are endless, and it is the builders' most worthy hope that with the wider opportunities international good will may also be increased.

In the belfry?

From Dr Richard Seddon
Sir, Perhaps Mr Porter (September 10), when he seeks advice on how to install a stuffed owl into the church for which he cares in order to scare away the bats, should be reminded that these creatures are very strongly protected by law against disturbance.

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, it is illegal for anyone without licence intentionally to kill, injure, handle, disturb, photograph or in any way to interfere with roosting bats.

It is also an offence to damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place that bats use for shelter or protection, whether bats are actually present or not, to disturb a bat using such a place, or interfere in any way, without notifying the Nature Conservancy Council in good time for them to inspect the situation and either give or withhold permission to act. The penalties are severe.

These harmless little creatures are not only under threat of extinction; they also devour on the wing hundreds of tons of insect pests that bite and sting humans and animals and spread disease to livestock and plants.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD SEDDON,
6 Arlesley Close, SW15.

Looking askance

From Mr R. N. Pittman
Sir, The guard's announcing that "the approaching station is Durham" (letter, September 17) has echoes of Sam Goldwyn standing at the liner's rail and wishing bon voyage to those on the quayside seeing him off.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN PITTMAN, Headmaster,
St Peter's School, York.

September 20-26, 1986

SATURDAY

A weekly guide to leisure, entertainment and the arts

Soaps that cleaned up

Next week, television's wedding of the year will take place. As millions of fans get their hankies ready for the moment when Michelle will say 'I do' to Lofty, Bryan Appleyard goes on to the secretive set of *EastEnders*, where even *Dirty Den* has to abide by the rules



Rising ratings: (from left) Grace dies in *The Archers*, 1955; *Coronation Street*, 1967: a bride falls on Eas Sharples; *Dallas*, 1980: J.R. Ewing is shot by former mistress Kristin; *EastEnders*, 1986: The wedding — and a new soap record?



THE PROGRAMMES THAT PULLED THE PUNTERS

There is nothing like a wedding for attracting audiences, as *Mrs Dale's Diary* discovered back in the early 1950s. But tragedies have a similar appeal and one of the most famous nights in radio was September 22, 1955 when Grace Archer, wife of Philip and daughter-in-law of the patriarch, Dan, dashed into a blazing stable to rescue a horse and was burned to death. More than 16 million people listened in horror as the tragedy unfolded, the event completely outstripping the opening on the same night of *Independent Television*. Only the creator of *The Archers*, Geoffrey Baxby, tried to pretend that the timing of Grace's demise was coincidental.

Coronation Street has continued to work the formula at regular intervals. The collapse of the viaduct in May 1967 had 18 million people on edge about the fate of a well-loved character, Eas Sharples, while later the same year the wedding of Elsie Tanner to an American airforce sergeant was watched by more than 20 million. When, early in 1983, Deirdre Barlow finally decided not to leave her dull husband, Ken, for Mike Baldwin, 15.5 million people shared her anguish and the "result" was relayed to a football crowd watching Manchester United play at Old Trafford.

But all these hands were trumped by the American import, *Dallas*. Whipped up by Terry Wogan on his early morning radio show, *Dallas* fever swept the land in anticipation of the shooting of the nasty oilman, J.R. Ewing. The event took place at 8.58 pm on May 26 1980, watched by 23.3 million people. Two minutes later the credits rolled to signal the end of the series, with J.R.'s fate unresolved and his would-be assassin unveiled. In one of the longest cliff-hangers in broadcasting history, the answers were not given until the new series began in November 1980, when the culprit was identified as J.R.'s mistress, Kristin. The BBC claimed 27.3 million viewers, almost certainly the biggest soap audience to date.

A couple of teenage girls, clutching unappetizing sandwiches outside the front gates of the BBC's Elstree Centre. The school holidays are over so most of them have given up this waiting game — even the one who travelled up daily from Hastings through the summer. But there are always a few, hoping for a glimpse of Sharon or Debbie, Pete or Ali, or even of *Dirty Den* himself, the role model for every lanky, smooth-tongued creep in the land.

For *EastEnders* is where they make *EastEnders*. This BBC1 soap opera pulls in audiences of 18 to 20 million weekly, peaking — in the episode just before *Dirty Den*'s wife Angie tried to "top" herself — at 24.35 million. Next week it will peak again as the wedding of Lofty and single parent Michelle approaches. Forget that little number at the Abbey

in July; this is the big one. The show has transformed both the history of British soaps and the recent history of the BBC. Its format is infamously simple — an "old-fashioned" East End square, in the fictional London borough of Walford, is the geographical anchor for a number of tales of contemporary urban working-class life. There is a pub — the Queen Victoria — a laundrette, a street market, and a canal, which seems to exert a strange, imaginative pull on both characters and audience. It is deeply embedded in a culture; that of the cockney proletariat with its wide boys, stoical mothers and hermetic yet threatening cosiness. In fact, on paper it looks almost like a south-of-Watford version of *Coronation Street*. But the real *EastEnders* revolution is stylistic. Where once Elsie Tanner, Len Fairclough and Eas Sharples had seemed

TV series if he were alive today. From the beginning they wanted "documentary realism" which, above all, meant staying true to the characters. The model of how to get this wrong is Channel 4's appalling *Brookside*, in which every character appears with an attached "issue". But Smith and Holland avoid issues like the plague — unless they spring naturally from the elaborate card-indexed biographies they have assembled. One of their most daring innovations is being rehearsed. Some time in October the masses are to be treated to an entire episode in which only two people appear. They are, naturally, Angie and Den, who move from downstairs to upstairs at their Queen Victoria pub. This is extreme soap opera, avant-garde and represents a daring leap forward from the 15-minute canal scene in which

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diffused with an immediate, almost dangerous realism, they eventually became, a quarter of a century down the line, oddly formalized and theatrical. The time had come for a new definition of the conventions of soap realism — and, cometh the hour, cometh the soap.

And that hour happened to coincide with another — the hour when BBC1 and its new chief, Michael Grade, needed a bi-weekly early evening book to drag it out of the ratings hole into which it had fallen as a result of some tiffy scheduling by ITV. The news that the BBC was to make a cockney soap was, however, greeted with some derision. An arch chronicle of the lives of peppy kings and queens was expected.

But *EastEnders* shocked everybody. Far from being full of "characters", it seemed peopled by evil-minded layabouts, forever bickering and forever broke. Its audiences stayed higher than expected and then, with a switch in its time slot from 7 pm to 7.30, it shot ahead of *Coronation Street*. Soaps have come and gone, of course, but this one seemed here to stay — after all these years, the *Street* had been superseded. *EastEnders* had a culture as coherent and fertile to draw upon — but the life it reflected suddenly seemed more, well, real.

Lofty and Michelle's nuptials, for example, have fired the nation as only Len Fairclough's upstart to Ken Barlow's chin previously had. And the whole thing has been made doubly intriguing by the tantalizing air of uncertainty which surrounds it. Stories have been flying about for weeks in the tabloids — where covering *EastEnders* can be a full-time job — that something will go wrong on the big day.

"We can confirm there is a wedding," a publicist said coyly, "but we have no comment on the outcome."

Down at Elstree plot secrets are sacred. Not a drop must leak — a difficult undertaking in view of the fact that episodes are shot six weeks in advance. A chutney in the studio, labelled "Confidential Waste Only", is used purely for shredded scripts. There have, in the past, been wild Press guesses about motor-cycle crashes, babies flung into canals — and one or two bullseyes — but, overall, the security system works as well as that, say, MI6.

So the girls on the gate never get in. If they did they would find, after some searching, Albert Square, E20, in a tiny corner of the huge lot. This is the *sacrosanct* sanctum, the *EastEnders* set. It is flanked by the perimeter fence, over which real houses can be glimpsed, in confusing contrast to the carefully-aged structure of steel, plaster and, occasionally, real brick of the sets.

During the past two years

the odd fan has got this far. Usually they remove the street signs — "London Borough of Walford, Albert Square, E20" — but Keith Harris, the designer, now secures them with industrial glue and top rivets. He has even welded on the top of the cast-iron pillar box which was once dragged to the perimeter fence.

Perversely, nobody seems to have vandalized the phone box. British Telecom, however, has been doing its bit by trying to persuade the BBC to replace it with a modern black and yellow one — as a piece of subliminal propaganda against the old, red variety.

Harris has been with the show since its inception and is responsible for the look and feel of Albert Square. Basically, "this means making everything as awful as possible — worse than the least genteel, real East End square. The reason for this is that everything looks slightly better on television: the small screen spruces things up. So, whenever Harris is on the set, he bashes it about a bit."

We come to a far corner of the square and Harris pauses, a touch reverentially. "This," he says, "is where Julia stood when this was just an open space full of wet sand — it used to be the building site in *Alf Harrison*. But you know — and she said, 'Whatever you build I want to be able to see that block of flats over there'."

He gestures towards a typical East End block, a real one, which springs mysteriously from the centre of Borehamwood.

Harris is speaking of Julia Smith, the producer who, along with script editor Tony Holland — is responsible for

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A WEEK IN ALBERT SQUARE

Producing a year-round, twice-a-week soap is a formidable piece of logistics. *EastEnders* is rehearsed and shot entirely at Elstree, editing and dubbing at Television Centre in Shepherd's Bush.

There is one producer — Julia Smith — and a team of writers who work in rotation. Tony Holland, the script editor, writes occasionally, to keep his hand in, and a specific writer may, occasionally, be felt to be a specialist in one type of situation — otherwise it is a strict rota. Holland and Smith know the plot, but writers are told no more than they need to. Actors are told virtually nothing. "You don't live your life knowing what's going to happen to you," Holland explains.

Two episodes are usually shot each week, but currently they are coming up to a double-banking period, in which four episodes a week will be made — this allows time off at Christmas. The schedule is as follows:

Monday: Morning, rehearsal. Afternoon, producer's run-through, rehearsing the major moves, and technical run-through to get camera movements and scenery right.

Tuesday: All-day rehearsals and lighting run-through.

Wednesday and Thursday: Recording of interior scenes. Working day lasts from 10 am to 10 pm.

Friday: Exterior scenes recorded on Elstree lot and rehearsals begin for following week.

Saturday: Rehearsals.

Sunday: Day off — for actors to learn their lines.

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SATURDAY

Grape expectation: Following the wine route in the heart of England's hop country — page 13

Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL I

Not far from the madding crowd

BEST
OF BRITAIN

In another of our occasional series, Michael Watkins discovers that the Dorchester immortalized in the great novels of Thomas Hardy's sleepy Wessex can still evoke the same magic

Poor William Barnes merits only four excerpts in the *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*, while Hardy wallows luxuriously among 70. There's the rub, I suppose—the reason why Hardy steals most of Dorchester's limelight. If it hadn't been for *Linden Lea*, I doubt very much if Barnes's statue would occupy prime space outside the parish church, leaving Hardy inhaling toxic traffic fumes at the far end of town.

He is not amused, relegated to an obscure plinth above the Austins and Toyotas, facing a No Entry sign for the rest of eternity. You can see that Hardy doesn't care for his alternative accommodation in Colliton Walk: he wears a brow-creased look of tetchiness that makes you wonder if there may be something in local gossip that he was a grumpy so-and-so.

All billowy-bosomed, bow-fronted as a pregnant marchioness

Dorothy Cox is old enough to remember him. She has read all his books and seen the plays, yet she still recalls the author who lived in Max Gate as a touch frangible. Dorchester used to be a lovely place, she said, but today the traffic—oh my word, you'd never cross the road!

Cornhill is full of Tesco, Presto and Halfords; and soft accents straight from *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*. High West Street, on the other hand, seems reluctant to acknowledge the century's turn, the clock having stopped in about 1886. There are no lamp-posts, telegraph poles or wires, although there is a helpful sign, chiselled in stone, to the

effect that Hyde Park Corner is 120 miles away.

The council offices, scene of the Assize Court of 1834, witnessed the trial of George Loveless and his farm worker companions who united "to preserve ourselves, our wives and our children from utter degradation and starvation". For their involvement in these seditious trade union activities, they were sentenced to seven years' transportation to Australia's penal colonies. It was lucky that these Tolpuddle martyrs were not arraigned to appear at an earlier Assize before Judge Jeffreys, or that they were not guilty of "injuring any part of this County Bridge", for which the sentence was transportation for life.

The judge of the Bloody Assizes lodged opposite what is now the County Museum, housing a collection of Hardy's manuscripts and the remains of reptiles which lived in Dorset—then under a warm sea—200 million years ago. The museum is a heap of Victoriana, the kind favoured by Bejeman. In fact, the poet knew the area well and it was the subject for one of his most famous poems, "Dorset". I loved the King's Arms Hotel, all billowy-bosomed, bow-fronted as a pregnant marchioness; and I much admired the Mayor of Casterbridge's house, currently in credit as a branch of Barclays Bank.

In his "Dorset", Bejeman was so drawn to Mellstock Churchyard, a mile or so from Dorchester (Mellstock, in fact, being Hardy's fictional name for Sturford), that it amazes me he didn't choose a plot there for himself. He would have found good company, alongside Cecil Day Lewis, T. S. Eliot and all the Hardy family, including

Thomas—or at least his heart; the less significant remains being at Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey.

Sturford is where Hardy's choir sang, treble and tenor, and thorough bass. There's no choir there today but it's a pretty church, with a prettier river walk which the choristers took on their way to evensong... the trouble is that fact and fiction become so interwoven it's hard to tell them apart.

Was Tess dishonoured by Alec d'Urberville in Kingsbere or Bere Regis? Where did Sergeant Troy mesmerize Bathsheba with his sword-play: at Weatherbury or Puddletown? Where was the Greenwood Tree: at Hardy's birthplace at Bockhampton or in an entirely different location? There is a whole gallery of not-so-fictional characters: Jude, Gabriel Oak, Angel

Clare—all drawn from life, their descendants living in Wessex today.

Did I say Wessex? Then it is time to trade one enigma with another, swapping scenery now for Hardy's landscape is placed, all fleecy sheep, woolly clouds, and octogenarians driving 1956 Morris Minors with terrible care all the way to Camelot. Bovingdon is made of sterner stuff: a fern-covered papier mâché countryside, criss-crossed with caterpillar tracks, pock-marked by high-trajectory shells. A real blasted heath. Tank battles take place here and there are scarier Ministry of Defence notices telling you not to photograph them: a bit old hat, surely, when Russian satellites are at it all day long?

It was here, after his management of the Arab Revolt, that Colonel Lawrence—now, in the name of

T. E. Shaw, an enlisted man in the Royal Tank Corps—worked on the proofs of *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*. During another incarceration, as Aircraftman 338171 Shaw, the cottage was fitted for eventual retirement.

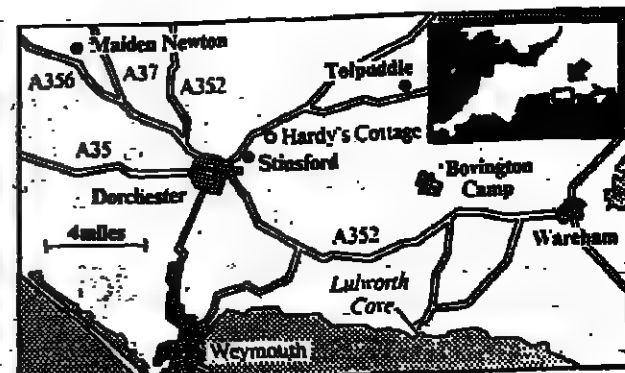
It was at this time that Shaw sent Noël Coward a copy of *The Mint*, in reply to which

Sheep everywhere, stuffed to the ears in rich green grass

Coward began his letter: "Dear 338171... may I call you 3387?" And it was from here, in May 1935, that the Oxonian/hero/brain-wrecker, extraordinary/enigma, swerving to avoid killing two errand boys, finally succeeded in killing himself.

The cottage, Clouds Hill, is one of the National Trust's smallest properties, its pattern of opening times sparse, that I arrived precisely 24 hours early. Humbly, I approached the custodian: "Two o'clock tomorrow," she said. Begging that I'd come a long way cut no ice: "Two o'clock tomorrow."

It looked a small cottage, the colour of desert sand, blinded by shutters against the evil eye and enclosed by a thick hedge. It gave nothing away. Houses are not usually inanimate, living through the memories they contain, but Clouds Hill felt like a post-traveller, hollow. It was right, in a way, that I didn't see inside, any more than I'd want to see inside the sham of Lawrence himself—if such were the truth. Instead, I took the Warham road. I was looking



Meditations on an English landscape: tranquil Lulworth Cove, left, and peaceful Dorchester, below



hard at polishing his aura of mystery, didn't he?

More sheep everywhere, stuffed to the ears in rich green grass, and cream tea advertised from every thatched cottage under a canopy of summer heat. I followed a sign to Lulworth Cove because I had my bathing things on the back seat. The chalk cliffs suddenly ended and two arms of Portland and Purbeck stone encircled a lagoon-like bay. There were thousands of people and muffled crumps from the nearby artillery firing range. The shingle was hell on the feet and you had to wade almost to 'Cherbourg' to get fife of wood, but the water was bracing-cool and tasted of sea instead of the garbage which you swallow on the Côte d'Azur.

As I floated I pondered on what was frequently being described as the "special Mediterranean quality of the light" in these parts. There's nothing Mediterranean about the light: it's Dorset light, bright enough to read by, clear enough to see as far as the Dolomites and good enough to be proud of.

TRAVEL NOTES

Michael Watkins stayed a few miles north of Dorchester at Maiden Newton—Chalk Newton in *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*—at Maiden Newton House (0308 203369). It is a member of the Wolsey Lodge organization: private homes run as personal small hotels. Double rooms cost £27 to £34 a night, dinner £11.50 each. There are 97 Wolsey Lodges. Information from 17 Chapel Street, Bileston, Suffolk (0448 741287).

THE SUNDAY TIMES

ALL THAT'S BEST IN BRITISH JOURNALISM

IAN MacGREGOR

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OF
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DANCE
MUSIC 1
MUSIC 2
THEATRE

TRAVEL II

Pirates' French leave

Things have changed on Noirmoutier. Time was when this little island, three-quarters of the way up the west coast of France, was a hive of nefarious activity, providing a haven for pirates and foreign armies who saw it — rightly — as an ideal place from which to launch their attacks on the mainland.

At the end of the 18th century, it witnessed some of the bloodiest incidents and most concentrated fighting of the French Revolution. Today, as you look out over the deserted salt marshes and hear the wind sighing softly in the pine trees, such things seem unimaginable. What you see is an island which is simply very flat, very thin, very quiet and very ordinary.

Men with hats potter about on battered old bicycles, plump women gossip as they hang out their washing; little windmills dot the countryside; at the laundrette the driers don't work and no one is around to give you the right change. In short, it is French but not particularly French; it is much like any other dozy rural retreat. That, of course, is its appeal.

Because of its size — just seven miles long — it does not take long to discover the principal landmarks and attractions. We strolled with the most obvious — the 12th-century chateau which dominates Noirmoutier-en-l'Île, the only town of any size on the island. Inside is a small, homely and uncluttered museum; outside, if your nerves can stand it, you can totter round the ramparts, risking your life on a short stretch



Marine matters: chatting over a basket of oysters

where the path narrows, the wind howls and the safety rail seems on the verge of collapse. The easiest way to recover your poise is to stroll across the square and take a gentle ride on "Le Petit Train" as it trundles through Le Bois de la Chaise. This north-eastern corner is the most scenically beautiful part of the island and at the height of summer, so we were reliably informed, the whole place positively swarms with them.

Most come pouring in over the bridge, opened in 1971, which connects the island to the mainland. The more adventurous wait for low tide and use the Gois causeway, a road running for nearly three miles across the sea. By the end of August, however, when we arrived, these seasonal invaders — like the pirates of old — had decamped, leaving the natives in peace.

And what peace. Mile after mile of sandy beach — 25 in all — lies empty, save for the occasional family. The bathing is good, the walking even better; you can wander for hours along the water's edge, your face freshened by the wind and warmed by the sun. Marine pursuits, naturally enough, are the main preoccupation of the islanders. As if to prove that their knowl-

edge of the sea is a match for anyone, the townspeople of Noirmoutier have set up a delightful little aquarium. From the outside it looks unimpressive, even shabby — a faded mural depicting Neptune rising from the waves painted on a grubby wall and a front door which looks permanently locked. Inside it is a revelation — beautifully laid out, imaginatively lit and boasting a host of exotic creatures, including piranhas from Brazil and tiny crocodiles from the Nile. Elsewhere, eclipsed by grander things, it would probably not rate a mention. In Noirmoutier it seemed pretty special. Small, as they say, is beautiful.

John Carey



TRAVEL NOTES

Noirmoutier claims to have the highest concentration of hotels on the Vendean coast — 17 in all. We stayed at the Hotel La Volière in La Guérande, on a Just France package organized by Westbury Travel, Westfield House, Westbury, Wiltshire (0373 826283). This year the hotel is not included in the Just France programme, except as one of the options in its touring holidays.

OUT AND ABOUT

Wine in the land of the hops

Harry Kerr

Englishmen are known to become misty-eyed as they drive through the French villages of the Médoc and gaze on the acres of vines bearing evocative names like Lafite and Latour. They could, however, if they wished, make a wine pilgrimage in their own country.

The varied landscape and soil conditions of the Surrey Downs, rolling down to the Kentish Weald and Sussex, is the hub of English wine growing. Oast houses, a reminder of the area's traditional crop of hops, sit comfortably with the sprawling farms and red brick period homes which tend to be surrounded by beautifully kept gardens and make delightful interludes for a day out.

Before visiting any of the following vineyards it is advisable to telephone ahead to check days and times of tours and quote the number of people in your party. At peak times you may have to book your tour in advance. Some owners may provide simple food or offer picnic facilities, but do ask before you arrive. The vineyard tours are modestly priced (usually £2 for adults) and include tastings.

Berwick Glebe: J D Brosnan and D A Birks, Fresham Cottage, Berwick, Polegate, Sussex (0323 870361). Immaculately kept two-acre vineyard handily sited for a good local pub, The Cricketers. The parish church has murals painted by members of the Bloomsbury set and is near Charleston Farm, associated with Virginia Woolf. Wine on sale, but visits by arrangement only.

Biddenden: R A Barnes, Little Whitman's, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent (0233 291726). Its 1983 Ordega wine won the English Wine of the Year Award. This 18-acre vineyard, started in 1969 on a third of an acre, produces a range of varieties plus some-made older. Open May-Oct Mon-Sat 11-5pm; Sun 11-2pm. Food available by arrangement.

Breaky Bottom P Hall, Breaky Bottom Vineyard, Rodmell, Lewes, Sussex (0273 476427). This four-acre vineyard is reached along a farm track, one mile off a side road. The winery is housed in a period brick and flint building. The dry wines are reminiscent of French, rather than the more usual German, taste. Visits by arrangement.

Carr Taylor: David and Linda Carr Taylor, Carr Taylor Vineyard, Westfield, Hastings, East Sussex (0424 782501). The great buy at this 21-acre vineyard is the owners' quality sparkling champagne, which is exported to France and found on international wine lists. Open April-Dec 10am-5pm; tours can be arranged.

Chiddlow: Ian Paget, Chiddlow Vineyard, Singleton, Chichester, Sussex (0243 533989). Open April-Sept 10am-5pm. Set in 13 acres the winery is housed in the old station which served for nearby Goodwood. It is also near beautiful West Dean Gardens and an open air museum of preserved buildings.

Cuckmere: Christopher and Lucy Ann, The English Wine Centre, Drustilla's Corner, Atristron, East Sussex (0323 870532). A wine museum, a shop with a wide range of English wines, a restaurant and pub serving British regional food, and a family area. Mr Ann will also advise enthusiasts wishing to plan an English wine tour. Open year round, guided tours by appointment.

Lamberhurst: K McAlpine, Ridge Farm, Lamberhurst, Tunbridge Wells, Kent (0892 890844 for tours). Eight white and one rose are now produced from the 40-acre vineyard, many of them medal winners in the English Wine of the Year competition. Lamberhurst wines have been served at Buckingham Palace and the Lord Mayor of London's banquet. You can take a guided tour or follow your

own vineyard trail with the aid of a leaflet. Open year round, but guided tours from May 1-Oct 31.

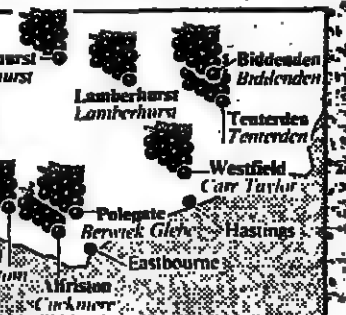
Penshurst: D Westphal, Penshurst Vineyards, Grove Road, Penshurst, Kent (0892 870255). Polythene tunnels where eating and wine grapes are grown, are thoughtfully provided against rainy days. There are picnic grounds which meander down to a lake and you can watch breeding wallabies, black swans and rare breed sheep at play. After viewing the stainless steel wine vats, get a tasting of three Penshurst white wines. Then, if visitors wish to put hand in pocket, they can buy anything from a £3.50 bottle of wine to a tea towel. "It's only by giving visitors the opportunity to see how we make it, and then giving them a taste, that we get round the problem of marketing English wine," says Mr Westphal. The new tasting room has seating for 55. Good toilet and access facilities for the disabled. Open year round from 10am-6pm.

Rock Lodge: N Cowdroy, Rock Lodge Vineyard, Scaynes Hill, Sussex (0444 86224). This 3½-acre vineyard was started in 1965 and has its own small winery, a shop, and is handily placed to neighbouring vineyards. If you want to follow a wine route, open May-Sept, Mon-Sat 9am-5pm.

Viticulture present and past: Lucy Ann of Cuckmere, delimiting the vine, and right, a collection of old bottles in the museum at Drustilla's



Vine time: Peter Hall of Breaky Bottom, above, tending the next vintage, and below, the end product and how to find it

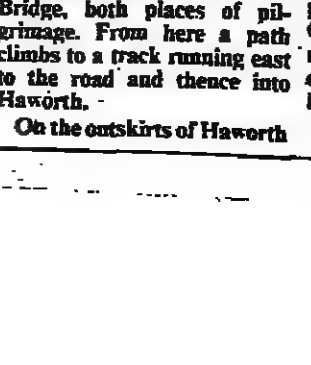
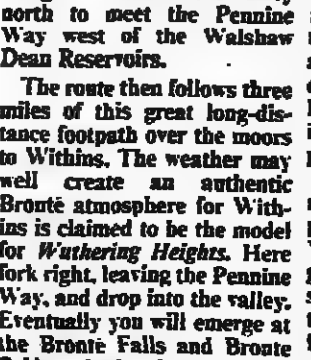
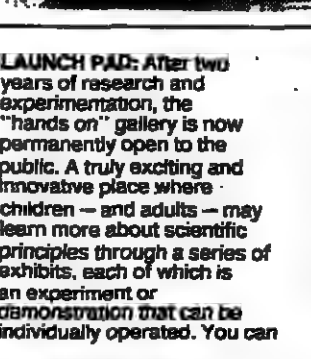
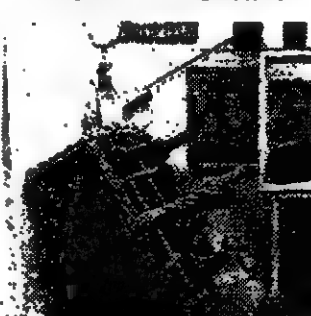


A case of history

Viticulture — the cultivation of vines — was brought to Britain by the Romans who then swamped the home market with their own wines from Italy. King Alfred recognized its importance by handing out stiff penalties to anyone damaging a neighbour's vineyard, but his efforts were undermined by the marriage of King Henry II to Eleanor of Aquitaine, which effectively ended English wine production with his acquisition of vast areas of vine around Bordeaux. The home product was unable to compete with French imports and this remained largely unchanged until, in 1951, Major General Sir Guy Salisbury-Jones planted a vineyard in Hambledon, Hampshire.

The problem of cheap imports is one which English vine-growers are familiar with today, but Penshurst Vineyards is able to sell 65,000 bottles a year to private buyers, hotels and British institutions. It was David Westphal's father Bob who in 1972 first planted vines at Penshurst "for fun". In the same year, Kenneth McAlpine at nearby Lamberhurst was doing the same thing. McAlpine's involvement has increased from eight acres in 1976, producing 70,000 bottles, to 48 acres and 700,000 bottles today.

Suzanne Greaves



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Tower Pier, Tower Hill, London EC3. Tickets at venue or from Waterley. Excursions (041 2218152). Today, tomorrow, Mon and Sep 24-28. Adult £9-£12, child £4-£5.28.

GREAT BILLINGSLEY FISH FARM: Almost every kind of fish to be had in the British Isles will be on display together with continuous cookery and filleting demonstrations, wine tastings, stalls, stands, media celebrities, pearly kings and queens, children's entertainments, live music

and refreshments — fish and otherwise. Billingsley Market, 87 West India Dock Road, London E14. Tomorrow 9.30am-5pm. Adult £2, child 50p.

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR WEEKEND: Re-enactment of a typical skirmish by the Southern Skirmish Association, with the Band of the 55th Virginia Regiment as vanguard. Also an exhibition about the war, in the museum which houses 18 period American rooms from 17th-19th centuries and some fine galleries of American silver and pewter. Gardens include an American arboretum, a replica of George Washington's garden and an Indian lodge. American Museum in Britain, Claverton Manor, Bath, Avon (0225 60503). Today, tomorrow, 1.30-6pm. Admission to grounds and skirmish, 50p. House and grounds, adult £2.25, child £1.75.

RALLY OF STATIONARY ENGINES: Some 50-60 are expected over the weekend, most with agricultural functions. Also the blacksmith's forge working at intervals, demonstrations of wood-turning, sack dressing and tomorrow, breeding. Shire horse and model railway rides plus all the superb buildings — from the 15th-century merchant's house to the 18th-century forge cottage — open as usual. Light refreshments and teas. Avoncroft Museum of Buildings, Stoke Heath, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire (0527 31886). Today, 11am-5.30pm. Adult £1.75, child 80p.

OUTINGS

PEWSEY CARNIVAL: Founded in 1898 and known as the "mother of carnivals". The procession is the culmination of two weeks of activities, comprises some 100 floats and nine bands. Town and river banks illuminated throughout. Also a funfair. Pewsey, Wiltshire. Today, 7.30-9.30pm. Free.

HORSEMAN'S SUNDAY: Traditional annual occasion in which the vicar of St John's Hyde Park, astride his horse, conducts a service of blessing. Some 100 horses and riders usually attend and the service is followed by a horse show with clear round jumping, handy ponies, fancy dress and gymkhana. Service, forecourt of St John's Church, Hyde Park, London W2. Tomorrow, noon. Horse show, the Paddock, Kensington Gardens, London W2. 1.30-5pm. Both events free.

WALKING WITH HISTORY: This walk combines literary and railway history with splendid scenery and stone villages in a beautiful part of England. Parking just beyond Widdow Gate on the Healden Bridge to Colne road, walk west along the road. At Blake Dean leave the road by the footpath at the bridge and follow the valley north to meet the Pennine Way west of the Walshaw Dean Reservoirs.

The route then follows three miles of this great long-distance footpath over the moors to Withins. The weather may well create an authentic Bronte atmosphere for Withins is claimed to be the model for *Wuthering Heights*. Here fork right, leaving the Pennine Way, and drop into the valley. Eventually you will emerge at the Bronte Falls and Bronte Bridge, both places of pilgrimage. From here a path climbs to a track running east to the road and thence into Haworth.

On the outskirts of Haworth

LAUNCH PAD: After two years of research and experimentation, the "hands on" gallery is now permanently open to the public. A truly exciting and innovative place where children — and adults — may learn more about scientific principles through a series of exhibits, each of which is an experiment or demonstration that can be individually operated. You can

use a computer television set to produce a variety of self-images, help fill an energy store, build a bridge, a chair, control a robot, experiment with mirrors, lights and much more.

Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7 (01-589 3456). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun 2.30-6pm. Free.

Judy Froshaug

WEEKEND WALK

HAWORTH YORKSHIRE

WALKING WITH HISTORY

WALKING WITH HISTORY

WALKING WITH HISTORY

WALKING WITH HISTORY

WALKING WITH HISTORY

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WALKING WITH HISTORY

SHOPPING

By Beryl Downing

Cinderella just for the party night

Partyspers are looking forward to a sparkling season with evening fashion more glamorous than ever.

But if your social round includes several formal occasions and your evening dresses are greeted with cries of "It looks as lovely as ever darling", then you might prefer to ring the changes by hiring.

A company that started in St Albans, Hertfordshire, two years ago and now has franchises in seven more towns is Just For The Night. The founders Cheryl Matthews and Lynette Tomlinson specialise in "everything after six", from discos to grand balls.

Well known designer names include Frank Usher and John Bates and 250 dresses are available for the £35 hire charge, with an £80 returnable deposit. Sizes are from 8 to 18 and ages from 13 to 80. There are also evening handbags and jewellery to complete the outfit. Telephone 0727 40759 for an appointment.

The franchise, whose stock is controlled by the head office so that standards and quality remain constant, are in Barnet, Berkhamstead, Dunstable, East Grinstead, Hindhead and Northampton with Oxford opening on October 1 and Hitchin later that month.

Other dress hire agencies include One Night Stand in Pimlico (01-730 8708) who have sizes 10 to 20 at £40 to £65 with a £100 deposit, and Simpsons in Covent Garden (01-836 2381) who offer sizes 8 to 14 (or a tall 16) for £25 to £50.

Swinging in the rain

Fair weather golfers may not be keeping up to scratch after a summer of floods and hurricanes, but there are now indoor practice ranges where they can keep dry while improving their swing and which include videos of players in action so that they can see their mistakes.

Among these is The Golfer at 48 Chiltern Street, London W1 (01 487 3338), where individual lessons cost £11 for half an hour (or £55 for six).

Arrangements can also be made with large companies to give instruction on their own premises. For details contact the pro, George Stoneham.

The Chinese treasure takeaway

Picture by James Darrell, hair by Peter Kenny



Madame Butterfly: late 19th century silk quilted robe with butterfly embroidery (once worn by a courtesan). Price £600 from Marilyn Garrow at Liberty. Antique fans from £60

Liberty's store has been travelling to the Far East since 1875, so it can fairly lay claim to the title of "Lao-Peng You". It means "old friends".

The store has chosen this title for the most comprehensive exhibition it has ever staged of Chinese goods — antique and modern — which includes textiles, furniture, screens, lacquerware, bamboo work and two and a half tons of marble statues.

And it's all for sale. The 18th and 19th-century textiles, collected by Marilyn Garrow, include Kossu robes at £3,000 which would only have been worn by royal princes, gauze robes at £600 worn in the summer and often given as birthday gifts from the Emperor, and some intricately pleated wrap-around skirts from £120 which would have been worn for burials.

Such rare pieces are bought by collectors to display as hangings rather than to wear — they would, in any case, tend to look like fancy dress — but there are jacket and dress-length robes with less lavish embroidery which could be worn very successfully as evening coats. Prices are from about £200 to £600, depending on age and rarity. The motifs



Tiger tiger: children's slippers £9.95 at Neal Street East

include birds, flowers and figures. Butterflies indicate that the robe was once worn by a courtesan.

The treasure trove that Alison Pyrah, Liberty's Oriental department buyer, brings back each year from China always includes a good selection of late 19th-century blue and white porcelain — this year there are 800 pots from £10 to several hundreds for the eager collectors who queue to buy them.

There are also some fine and rare Imperial pieces shown in the Liberty exhibition by the specialists S.



Animal magic: mythical clay hog made in Beijing £50; carved bird figure lacquer tray made in Shanxi £65; and painted and varnished cockerel in bamboo £25, all at Liberty

Marchant and Son, 120 Kensington Church Street, London W8 (01-229 5319). These include a magnificent bowl at £6,250. Of the Yonzheng period (1723-1735), it is decorated with three fish in underglazed red — the most difficult colour to produce as it often runs brown.

Marchants are also showing pieces from the first Hancher cargo which sank in the 1640s in the South China Seas, before the highly publicized Nanking cargo which was auctioned earlier this year.

Some of the most curious pieces on show are modern, although made to look ancient and traditional. One of the carved plates in terracotta lacquer was snapped up immediately by the Victoria & Albert Museum for their modern Chinese collection.

"The rather Aztec decoration could be totally modern, or it could be something very traditional," says Alison Pyrah. "No one knows very much about Chinese folk art as there is very little documentation."

More modern folk art comes in the form of bamboo basketware, and in a collection of curious mythical animals made recently but which look as if they had been buried with the 2,000-year-old clay army of the Emperor Qin Shihuang, discovered in 1984. Prices range from £35 to £75.

For collectors who want to make a statement that no visitor can overlook there are 48 six marble figures of the eight immortals, looking very

old and wise, with long beards and flowing robes. They also have eight mythical counterparts with bird and animal faces, also made in Chinese marble — a very hard form of soapstone — and costing about £500 each.

The exhibition opens on October 2 and continues until October 25. There will be simultaneous exhibitions of a smaller selection of Chinese goods at main Liberty branches throughout the country.

Drawings by Jill Field



Sew neat: 19th century needle case £39 at Neal Street East

Two other focal points for Oriental specialties in London are Neal Street East in Covent Garden and the Oriental Shop in Chelsea.

For Neal Street East, 5 Neal Street, London WC2 (01-240 0135), Christina Smith, who has been visiting China since the end of the cultural revolution, has been seeking unusual wares from minority tribes

whose work is only just beginning to be seen in the West.

"Four or five years ago there was a policy to be nice to the minorities who were persecuted during the revolution," she says. "They are now being allowed to bring their goods to the Canton Fair and the result is that there are a lot more textiles, ceramics and jewellery available from Tibet, Mongolia and the Laos borders."

Interesting small pieces include a modern green celadon-style water-drip duck which was used for painting — water is poured in through a hole in the back and dripped slowly out from another hole by the beak, £3.68, and several late 19th-century metal needle cases with intricately worked caps which pull up to reveal a slender tube to hold the needles. Prices around £35. The textiles include children's slippers embroidered with animal faces, £9.95, and there are more than 1,000 books on every subject from cooking to calligraphy.

At the Oriental Shop, 10 Eccleston Street, London SW1 (01-730 4370), Joss Graham has charming brooches made of kingfisher feathers at about £20 and an interesting collection of Tibetan metalware, including copper Gan boxes which contained religious scrolls to protect the wearer against evil and which were hung on a belt or round the neck when travelling. In various shapes, some decorated, some simply polished, from £32 to £45.

IN THE GARDEN

By Francesca Greenoak

Nigel Robinson

Impressions from a man for all seasons

To visit Paul Gell's garden in Plymouth is to see the subjects of his ravishing paintings in a living landscape. It is beautiful, carefully composed and secretive, glowing inside high cliff walls.

Gell is a gentle, tall man, his hair greying at the temples. He is immensely courteous, but reserved. There is warmth in his voice as he describes "a special feeling for plants" and how his garden gives him fresh insight for his paintings. Yet after a long and severe illness, Paul Gell is selling his house and bidding goodbye to the garden which has served as his inspiration for the past 10 years.

A country garden inside the

town, it is tucked into and around a massive limestone rock from the top of which you can look out over Plymouth Sound to the ocean.

The artist's first act of landscaping was to replace a stark bed of hybrid roses, making a pool surrounded by contrasting textures and colours: soft pale Alchemilla foliage and lavender flowers against the tall dark evergreen spikes of New Zealand flax.

His ideal is "a happy compromise between man and nature, planning and accidents", and he continued to plant using the natural complexity of his two acres to create a series of small, enclosed gardens on different

levels, leading off from the main garden which skirts the eastern side of the house.

From the lawn of the large garden, which stretches beneath the red chestnut tree, there is a focus of interest in every direction. Draping the high cliff wall, skeins of virginia creeper change from green to autumn crimson, and ivy-leaved toadflax and pretty campanula (*Campanula portenschlagiana*) flower abundantly from toe-holds in the rock crevices.

In its shelter is a sunny flowerbed, where all lily-like crinoids (safe to plant outdoors, only in milder parts of the country) are still in flower. A path runs through the herb garden, where the painter's two Russian blue Siamese cats lounge elegantly among the silver white sage and artemisia, taking you into a quiet dell made into a shady garden.

Two shapely pink lacy-cap hydrangeas with their flowery coronets (*Hydrangea macrophylla Mariessii*) were "planted to give a splash of blue, but I've decided they're actually nicer as they are". This "happy accident" probably came about through a nurseryman's mistake rather

His never uses a sketch pad, but works from memory

than the natural propensity of the species to come pink on an alkaline soil. It is possible to grow blue varieties in chalk or limey soil by adding Sequestrene or aluminium sulphate, and conversely give annual limestone dressings to keep pink kinds from purpling in acid conditions but it seems perverse.

An all-seasons gardener, Paul Gell's passions range from spring tulips "especially the white Mount Tacoma — like single peonies" through to the wintry varieties of hellebore. Most of his plants could be grown in any garden but palms, yucca, mimosa (*Acacia dealbata*) and a tall strawberry tree with ripe red fruits, provide an exotic touch which can be achieved in the south-west of the country. "The bay trees even self-seed here", commented Gell.

Pittosporum with their glossy leaves make slender,



Seat of inspiration: Paul Gell in his walled garden and (left) his Hibiscus from Bali, a watercolour, from the 1986 Francis Kyle Gallery calendar

lifetime and in Paul Gell's opinion are "the main consideration when looking for a new garden". He enlarged a window in his house to provide a better view of the huge old cherry, the rare cultivar Tai Haku, the Japanese great white cherry.

He has planted a willow leaved pear (nowadays much more readily available), which is kept pruned so that the wavy silvery foliage shows itself to best advantage. On a grassy slope, he has established a small orchard, and another part of the garden has elder and other native trees ranged round a small meadow.

In his paintings Paul Gell conveys the vibrancy and colour of each individual flower, the exact quality of leaf and petal, the odd character of a wiry corkscrewing sweet-pea stem. Yet he never takes a sketch-book into the garden, only rarely "jams some flowers into a jar in the studio". His work is a distillation of his impressions as he walks and

works in his garden. Fittingly the book of his paintings is called *Flowers from a Painter's Garden*.

Paul Gell's work may be viewed at the New Grafton Gallery, 48 Church Road, Barnes, London SW3, and at the DM Gallery, 31 Dover Street, London W1 from the end of the month.

WEEKEND TIPS

- Clear up garden debris (including windfall fruit) to avoid overwintering pests and diseases and clean and store bamboo canes.
- Watch for the prevalent grey mould (*Botrytis*) on greenhouse grapes — ensure that there is a good airflow.
- Lift maincrop potatoes and store dry, in sacks.
- Green tomatoes ripen well if wrapped individually in newspaper.
- Test early apples and pears for ripeness.
- Protect the emerging leaves of *Cyclamen hederifolium* from slugs.

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مكتبة الأنجلو

THE TIMES COOK

A stalk on the wild side

The current rage for wild mushrooms is all very well, but it is dashed frustrating for those who cannot lay their hands on anything more exotic than a well-bred button or a cultivated flap. A couple of other varieties, oyster and shitake mushrooms, are grown for the market, but the more exotic wild mushrooms, fat, flavourous cepes, and apricot-scented chanterelles, are as hard to come by as fresh truffles.

Happily, the principles of choosing and cooking mushrooms are much the same for all varieties. They should be fresh, firm and used as quickly as possible. All are well served by cooking in a shallow pan with good butter, olive oil or bacon fat, and all share an affinity with eggs and cream. Judicious amounts of garlic and lemon juice seldom go amiss.

Whether you got drenched in dew picking big open field mushrooms that must be eaten quickly before they self-destruct, or picked up a pack of perfectly cultivated open mushrooms from the supermarket, stuffing them is irresistible. The filling can be as simple as a "snail" butter loaded with finely chopped garlic and parsley, or something more inventive. This kidney stuffing comes from Californian restaurateur Alice Waters in whose *Chef-Farisee Cookbook* is embellished boned shoulder or roast spring lamb.

Roast mushrooms
Serves four
4 large open mushrooms
2 tablespoons virgin olive oil
For the stuffing
170g (6oz) lamb's kidneys
2 tablespoons virgin olive oil

Fresh mushrooms from the fields give Shona Crawford Poole some savoury ideas for stuffings and fillings



Salt and pepper
45g (1½oz) day-old bread cut into ½ inch cubes
2 sprigs parsley
2 sprigs thyme
1 sprig marjoram
2 cloves garlic

Wipe the mushrooms but do not peel them. Trim the stalks level with the caps. Brush them all over with the oil and arrange them in one layer in an oven-proof dish.

To make the stuffing, trim the kidneys and rinse them well in cold water. Cut them into 1cm (3/8 inch) dice. Sauté the kidneys in the oil over a medium heat for two or three minutes. Season with salt and pepper and mix with the diced bread. Stem and roughly chop the herbs and add them to the stuffing together with the finely chopped garlic, salt and pepper.

Divide the stuffing between the prepared mushrooms and roast them in a preheated moderately hot oven (200°C/400°F, gas mark 6) for 10 to 15 minutes. The exact time will depend on the size of the mushrooms.

Serve at once with crusty bread and a green salad, or toast with a dish of rich dauphinoise potatoes baked with cream.

Any of the wild mushrooms can be used to fill these fragrant savoury strudels. The addition of dried cepes enriches the flavour if the recipe is made with cultivated mushrooms. Dual purpose strudel/phylo pastry is sold by Greek grocers and many supermarkets.

Mushroom strudels
Serves six
6 sheets strudel pastry
4 tablespoons melted butter

For the filling
30g (1oz) melted butter
1 small onion, finely chopped
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
3 eggs, separated
30g (1oz) fresh breadcrumbs
225g (8oz) open mushrooms

Melt the butter in a wide pan and cook the onion slowly until it is soft, but not coloured. Add the mushrooms and cook them gently until they have given off their water and the mixture is thick. Season the mixture and leave it to cool before stirring in the egg yolks.

Whisk the egg whites to a stiff meringue and fold it into the mushroom mixture, followed by the breadcrumbs.

To assemble the strudels, lay a sheet of the paper-thin pastry on a clean surface and brush it with melted butter. Take one sixth of the filling mixture and lay it in a bar about 10cm/4 inches long in the middle of one short edge of the dough. Dribble a teaspoonful of melted butter over the filling and roll up the pastry very loosely to allow the filling to expand, making two or three turns before folding the sides in over the filling, and rolling to the end of the strip. Form the remaining strudels the same way.

Arrange the pastries, slightly apart and seam side down on a buttered baking tray and brush them with melted butter. Bake them in a preheated moderately hot oven (190°C/375°F, gas mark 5) for about 35 minutes, or until they are golden.

Serve the mushroom strudels hot or warm as a snack or first course.

BRIDGE

The pair with flair

Beware stylish bids says Jeremy Flint

Rose and Smolski had their moments in the International Trials, but their similarity of style proved a predictable handicap. The ideal bridge partnership should be composed of a pitcher and a catcher. Rose and Smolski, both enormously talented card players, tend to rely on flair in the bidding rather than a quest for pinpoint accuracy. So, now and again, there is a ride on a roller coaster.

Later this month, Roman Smolski will represent Great Britain in the Pairs Olympiad in Miami, playing with Henry Bethe, an American by birth, has established the required residential status by living in England for the past two years. Smolski and Bethe have already achieved some exceptional results, and I have high hopes that their partnership will continue to flourish.

Here they are in action in the Harold Foster Cup, the main event of the EBU summer meeting, which attracted an entry of over 500 pairs.

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South 10 7 5 4 3 2
West 10 7 5 4 3 2
East 10 7 5 4 3 2

If we take a peep at West's hand, Smolski's prospects look far from bright. Smolski won the lead with the ♠K and cashed the ♠A, discarding a diamond from dummy. He ruffed a spade in dummy, released the ♠A and ruffed a heart with the ♠2. He cashed the ♠K and ♠A and ruffed a diamond with dummy's ♠10, to leave this position with the lead in dummy.

A heart ruff with the ♠A obliged West to underlead. When Smolski played his last diamond, West could make his ♠Q, then or later, but he could not defeat the slam.

Against this skilful line of play, West's five trumps were as innocuous as tin tacks under a steam roller.

EATING OUT

Legendary lunch

Fitzrovia used to be a more raffish, less sleazy Soho. It's not like that now; Bohemia died more than two decades ago. The Ad World has taken over. It is from here that the nation's minds are manipulated by persons wearing spectacle frames the colour of winegums, and driving any car as long as it's a D-reg Porsche with a spoiler. If you don't believe me, go to Chez Gerard, where careworn "creatives" reward themselves after a morning's exhausting graft.

The meat here is higher quality than in usual restaurants, but the prices are higher. It is grilled on charcoal and the best value is in those chunks — ribs or Chateaubriand — which serve two people.

I ate the Friday dish of the Midi, a lot of garlic mayonnaise with salt cod, boiled potatoes and baby turnips; the fish was as good as one is likely to get in this country — and showed that Chez Gerard can cater for those who are not 100 per cent carnivores. £38 for two.

Amie's is a cruel warning to copywriters not to fall victim to the lure of the take-away, and steak with "trunkmeats", in other words mustard, a home-made horseradish cream and so on. Vegetables are first-rate and so are the English cheeses. About £40 for two.

Jonathan Meades
Chez Gerard, 8 Charlotte Street, London W1 (01-636 4975). Open Sun-Fri 12.30-2.30pm and daily 6-11pm. Amie's, 128 Cleveland Street, London W1 (01-387 1548). Open Mon-Fri noon-3pm, 6-11pm; Sat 6-11pm.

another was a salad of smoked chicken that included daisies (sounds nice, tastes good); a third was a rather Baltic mix of soured herring, potato, apple and sour cream.

The £12.50 set menu offers six main courses, of which the above-mentioned Tweed kettle pie was outstanding — salmon and leek in a butter sauce with a light pastry top. Also trout cooked in paper, which is a way of achieving the effect of foil, without making the table look like a take-away; and steak with "trunkmeats", in other words mustard, a home-made horseradish cream and so on. Vegetables are first-rate and so are the English cheeses. About £40 for two.

Tweed kettle pie

sausage with a light pastry top. Also trout cooked in paper, which is a way of achieving the effect of foil, without making the table look like a take-away; and steak with "trunkmeats", in other words mustard, a home-made horseradish cream and so on. Vegetables are first-rate and so are the English cheeses. About £40 for two.

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CHESS

Russian revolution

In this series of articles on challenges for the world championship, that great Russian, Mikhail Tichogorin, stands out as the supreme revolutionary. At a time when the theories of the all-powerful Steinitz insisted that the Evans Gambit was unsound, and that in the Queen's Pawn Opening it was illegal to block the "c" pawn, Tichogorin exposed both antitheses with vigour. He countered numerous Evans Gambits with Steinitz and introduced the defence 1 d4 d5 2 c4. No!

This is still considered dubious, though Tony Miles came close earlier this year to registering an upset defeat against Karpov, using Tichogorin's invention. Finally, Tichogorin pioneered 1... Nf6 as an answer to 1 d4. This was anathema to the classicists who argued that 1 d4 must be parried with 1... d5. Interestingly, Karpov has a poor record against Kasparov after 1 d4 Nf6, but has performed respectably when he defends with 1 d4 d5.

Here is a game from the second of Tichogorin's titanic struggles with Steinitz.

Black resigns
Raymond Keene

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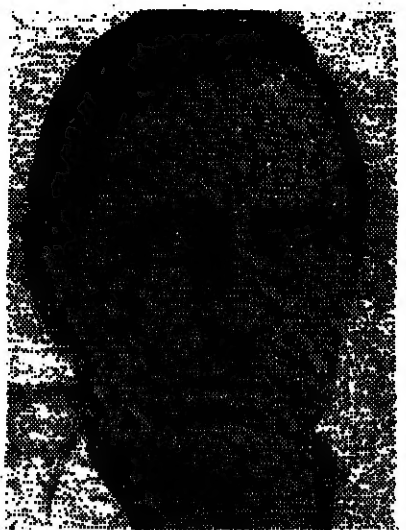
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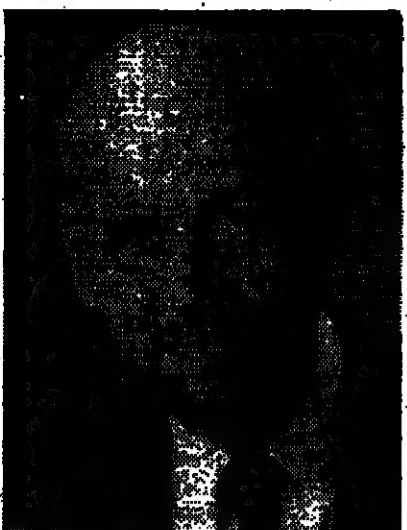
BOOKS

COME TO GRIEF: Paul Bailey, in his new novel, *Gabriel's Lament* (published on Thursday by Jonathan Cape, £9.95) offers a funny and horrifying picture of eccentric English life from the early 1940s to the present. Gabriel's grief follows a strange bequest from his father.



THEATRE

LIVING KAFKA: Geoffrey Palmer, the lugubrious face of many of the television sitcom, plays the central figure of Alan Bennett's *Kafka's Dick*, a writer who idolizes Kafka and lives his life through him. With Alison Steadman. Royal Court (01-730 5174), from Tuesday after previews.



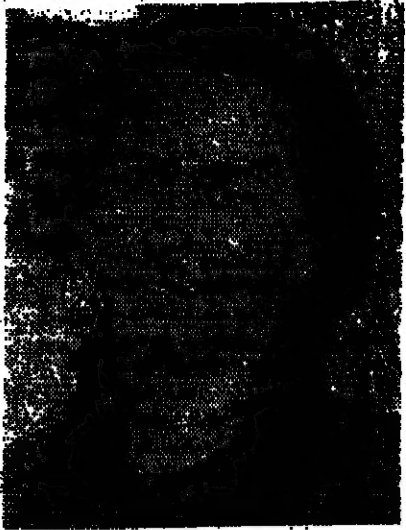
OPERA

LONDON WELSH: Brian McMaster, who has shaped the Welsh National Opera for the last decade as its general administrator, brings the company to Covent Garden for the first time with a complete *Ring* cycle. Royal Opera House (01-240 1066), from Thursday.



TELEVISION

PRIVATE LIVES: The Prince and Princess of Wales are the subject of a two-part ITV profile presented by Alastair Burnet. For the first time the cameras were allowed behind the scenes to catch their off-duty moments. Tomorrow, 7.45-8.50pm, and Monday, 7.30-8.30pm.



FILMS

GREEK TRAGEDY: Kate Nelligan stars with John Malkovich in *Eleni* (PG), the true story of an American journalist's search for the truth about his mother's death during the Greek civil war of the 1940s. Cannon Haymarket (01-839 1527), from Friday.



CONCERTS

GLASS EYES: Philip Glass, the guru of systems music, brings his ensemble back to London with excerpts from his operas *Einstein on the Beach* and *Akhnaten*, plus music written for the choreographer Twyla Tharp. Royal Albert Hall (01-589 8212), Friday.

TIMES CHOICE

FILMS

OPENINGS

OTELLO (U): Verdi's opera, superbly transferred to the screen by Franco Zeffirelli, with Plácido Domingo (Otello), Kiri Te Kanawa (Desdemona), Justo Diaz (Iago) and much location camerawork. Lorin Maazel conducts. ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (01-836 8279), from Tues.

THE LEGEND OF THE SURAM FORTRESS (U): Sergei Paradjanov, the Georgian director of *The Colour of Pomegranates*, returns after years of silence with a beautiful, cryptic version of a Georgian legend about the construction of a fortress. Camden Plaza (01-485 2443), from Fri.

ABOUT LAST NIGHT (18): Lightweight study in the mating habits of young Americans, derived — at a polite distance — from David Mamet's one-act play *Sexual Perversity in Chicago*. Edward Zwick directs Rob Lowe, Demi Moore, Jim Belushi. Warner West End (01-439 0791), Cannon Oxford Street (01-636 0310), from Fri.

SELECTED

TROUBLE IN MIND (15): Alan Rudolph's playful, stridently stylish thriller, with Kris Kristofferson as an ex-cop with a past, mixed up with driftners and dreamers. Screen on the Green (01-226 3520), Cannon Oxford Street (01-636 0310).

THE DECLINE OF THE AMERICAN EMPIRE (18): Satirical Canadian comedy, centred round a dinner party for sex-obsessed academics, directed by Denis Arcand. One of the hits at Cannes. Rencor (01-857 8429), Chelsea Cinema (01-351 3742).

MONA LISA (18): Neil Jordan's off-beat comedy-drama, with



Bob Hoskins (above) in fine form as the bemused chauffeur to a high-class prostitute. Odeon Haymarket (01-930 2738).

THEATRE

IN PREVIEW

A BETROTHAL: Ben Kingsley and Geraldine James in the world premiere of a play by Lanford Wilson, directed by Alison Sutcliffe. Late nights only, at one of the smallest French theatres in London. The Man in the Moon, 392 Kings Road, London SW3 (01-351 2876). Previews Fri, Sep 27, 28. Opens Sep 30.

OPENINGS

THE MAGISTRATE: Pinero farce, directed by Michael Rudman, with Nigel Hawthorne, Gerenda Craven, Nicholas Le Prevost, Graeme Henderson, Frank Lazarus, Alison Fiske, Jeffrey Wickham. Lyttelton (01-928 2252). Previews Mon, Tues. Opens Wed. In repertory. Thurs, Fri.

OUR LADY: The Women's Theatre Group in a "blasphemous thriller" by Deborah Levy. Three present-day women claim to be Our Lady. They are tried for heresy by a representative of the Holy Inquisition, summoned from the 15th century. London premiere. Drift Hall Arts Centre, 16 Chanies Street, London WC1 (01-637 8270). Opens Tues.

TALK TO ME: William Humble's play about

responses to depression and attitudes to analysis has Alin Doble leading a cast directed by Wyn Jones in the opening production at this re-furnished and revived theatre. New End Theatre, 27 New End, London NW3 (01-734 0222). Preview today. Opens Mon.

SELECTED

WOMAN IN MIND: Ayckbourn's latest foray into middle-class frustration. Julia McKenzie shines as the touched fantasist of the title. Vaudeville (01-836 9888).

THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA: Lorca's last tragedy of Spanish manners, robustly played by Joan Plowright, Glenda Jackson, Amanda Root. Lyric, Hammersmith (01-741 2311).

OUT OF TOWN

BELFAST: Lady Windermere's Fans Honor Blackman as Mrs Erylne in the Oscar Wilde play, directed by Richard Digby Day. Lyric Players (0232 660081). Until Oct 4.

DARLINGTON: The Old Man of Lochgair: Whirligig Theatre tour of David Wood's musical play, based on the book by the Prince of Wales. Due at Sadler's Wells in November. Civic (0232 485555). Opens Mon. Until Sep 27.

MANCHESTER: To Kill a Mockingbird: European premiere of Christopher Sergel's dramatization of the Harper Lee novel, directed by Anthony Clark. Contact (061 273 5696). Opens Wed.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE: Sweeney Todd: Stephen Sondheim's "musical thriller" about the demon barber of Fleet Street, with Michael N. Harbour, Toni Palmer, Janis Kelly. Directed by Ken Hill. Playhouse (0632 323421). Until Oct 4.

PLYMOUTH: Pump Boys & Dinettes: American country-rock musical, which ran in the West End, now beginning a regional tour in a new production. The Drum, Theatre Royal (0752 689595). Until Oct 4.

SHEFFIELD: Phoochie Boys: Paines Plough present a fantasy comedy by Jim Morris about three teenage television addicts. Crucible Studio (0742 789922). Opens Mon.

ROCK AND JAZZ

AL JARREAU: Sweet-soured soul-jazz crooner, sharing the bill with the somewhat tougher Gwan Guthrie. Tonight, Wembley Arena (01-902 1234).

CLARK TRACEY QUINTET: Son of Stan Stokes his fine hard-bop band's fires with a bluesy jazz zest. Tonight, Ruislip, Lincoln; tomorrow, Spring Street Theatre, Hull (0482 23638); Mon, Coconut Grove, Leeds (0532 455718); Tues, Corner House Hotel, Newcastle (091 6259602); Wed, York Arts Centre (0904 27129); Thurs, Band on the Wall, Manchester (061 834 1789); Fri, Dovecot Arts Centre, Stockton (0642 611625).

STAN RIDGEWAY: The "Carnegie" man makes a quick return. Tomorrow and Mon, Marquee, 90 Wardour Street, London W1 (01-437 8603).

CAMEO: Hot funk from Larry Blackmon's crew. Tomorrow, Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham (0692 473228); Mon, Oxford Apollo (0865 244544); Tues, Hammersmith Odeon, London W6 (01-748 4081); Wed, Colston Hall, Bristol (0272 291769); Fri, Birmingham Odeon (021 643 6101).

CHRIS DE BURGH: The Perry Como of the Eighties. Tomorrow, Liverpool Empire (061 7091555); Mon, Manchester Apollo (061 643 6101).

ROD STEWART: Enjoying a new lease of life. Wed/Thurs, Wembley Arena (01-902 1234).

DANCE

SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET: Three further performances of *The Snow Queen*, this afternoon, this evening and Mon, conclude the company's short London season. Covent Garden (01-240 1066).

MICHAEL CLARK: The new show continues for one more week in London before



Michael Clark (above) and his company go to New York and Europe. Sadler's Wells (01-278 8916).

MATTHEW HAWKINS: His Imminent Dancers Group has one more performance tonight at The Place (01-387 0031).

OPERA

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: The last cut-price preview performance on Tues at 7.30pm of Jonathan Miller's new, un-Japanese *Mikado*; then the first night on Sep 27, with Richard Angas in the title role, supported by Richard Van Allan as Pooh Bah and Lesley Garrett as Yum-Yum. Peter Robinson conducts. Two performances of Miller's rather heavy-handed *Figaro* on Wed and Fri at 7pm, and two last chances to see it *brovatore* tonight and Thurs at 7.30pm. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161).

OPERA NORTHERN IRELAND: A new season with new artistic management is underway, with *Arlecchino* on Wed and Fri, with Rita Cullis, Nan Christie, Eldwen Harrity, Kenneth Woolham and Geoffrey Dolton. Then on Tues, Thurs and Sep 27, Christopher Renshaw's new production of Verdi's *Faust*, conducted by Kenneth Montgomery, with Helen Walker and Patrick Power. All performances start at 7.30pm. Grand Opera, Belfast (0232 241919).

GALLERIES

OPENINGS

PUBLIC ARTISTS: A week when Birmingham's contemporary artists put on exhibitions and open their studios to the public. All over Birmingham. For information: 73c Church Road, Moseley, Birmingham B21 4AB (0562) from today until next Sunday.

CONTRARIWISE: Major exhibition of Surrealist art, including painting, sculpture, photography, film and television, right through to advertisements today. Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Alexandra Road, Swansea, (0792 55006) from today.

TAUROMAQUIA: Study prints by Goya and Picasso on the

theme of the bullfight. Warwick Arts Trust, 33 Warwick Square, London SW1 (01-834 7856) from Wed.

WEIMAR CERAMICS: Loan exhibition from the National Museum, Nuremberg of ceramics influenced by Bauhaus teaching. The Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington (01-589 6371) from Wed.

SELECTED

JULIAN SCHNABEL: A decade of painting by the controversial New York artist. Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel High Street, London E1 (01-377 0107).

PICASSO: Excerpts from the 175 personal sketchbooks kept by the master. The Royal Academy, Piccadilly, London W1 (01-734 3052).

CAPITAL GAINS: Archaeological survey of London resulting from recent research. Museum of London, London Wall, London EC2 (01-600 3699).

CONCERTS

ELLY AMELING: Singing many Ravel songs, some Debussy. Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1 (01-935 2141). Today, 7.30pm.

CLAUDIO ARRAU: In Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 4 with the LSO. Rafael Friberg de Burgos also conducts Debussy's *Nocturnes* and the 1919 version of Stravinsky's *Firebird*. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-628 8795, credit cards 01-638 6881). Today, 7.45pm.

TIPPETT'S CHILD: The Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields, Chorus and soloists under Sir Neville Marriner interpret Tippett's *Child of Our Time* and his Corvelli *Fantasia Concertaria*. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191, credit cards 01-928 8800). Tues, 7.30pm.

EAST OF VIENNA: The Nash Ensemble plays Denisov's *Sextet*, Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir de Florence*. Wigmore Hall, Wed, 7.30pm.

MORE MAHLER: Giuseppe Sinopoli conducts the Philharmonia Orchestra in Mahler's Symphony No 8, which takes up the whole concert. Royal Festival Hall, Wed, 7.30pm.

SHOSTAKOVICH'S 80TH: Maxim Shostakovitch conducts his LSO in his *Symphony of Gold Suite*, *Symphony No 15*, Lynn Harrell solos in Cello Concerto No 1, all to mark the 80th anniversary of the composer's birth. Barbican Centre, Thurs, 7.45pm.

LONDON PIANO: A gala concert to launch the London International Piano Competition finds Sir Colin Davis conducting the ECO in Mozart's G minor Symphony K 550, Ravi Lupton soloing in the C minor Concerto K 461. Queen Elizabeth Hall, Thurs, 7.45pm.

PREVIN/RPO: André Previn takes the RPO through Rossini's *Italiana in Algeri* Overture, Rachmaninov's Symphony No 2, and Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto. Royal Festival Hall, Fri, 7.30pm.

BOOKINGS

FIRST CHANCE

LONDON CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE: Postal bookings opened this week, for new ballets by Stephen Davies and London premiere of *Interrogations and Ceremony*. Nov 18-Dec 6. Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1. (01-278 8916).

BACH AND THE CITIES OF EUROPE: Series of concerts by London Bach Orchestra, tracing Bach's music through his travels to Leipzig.

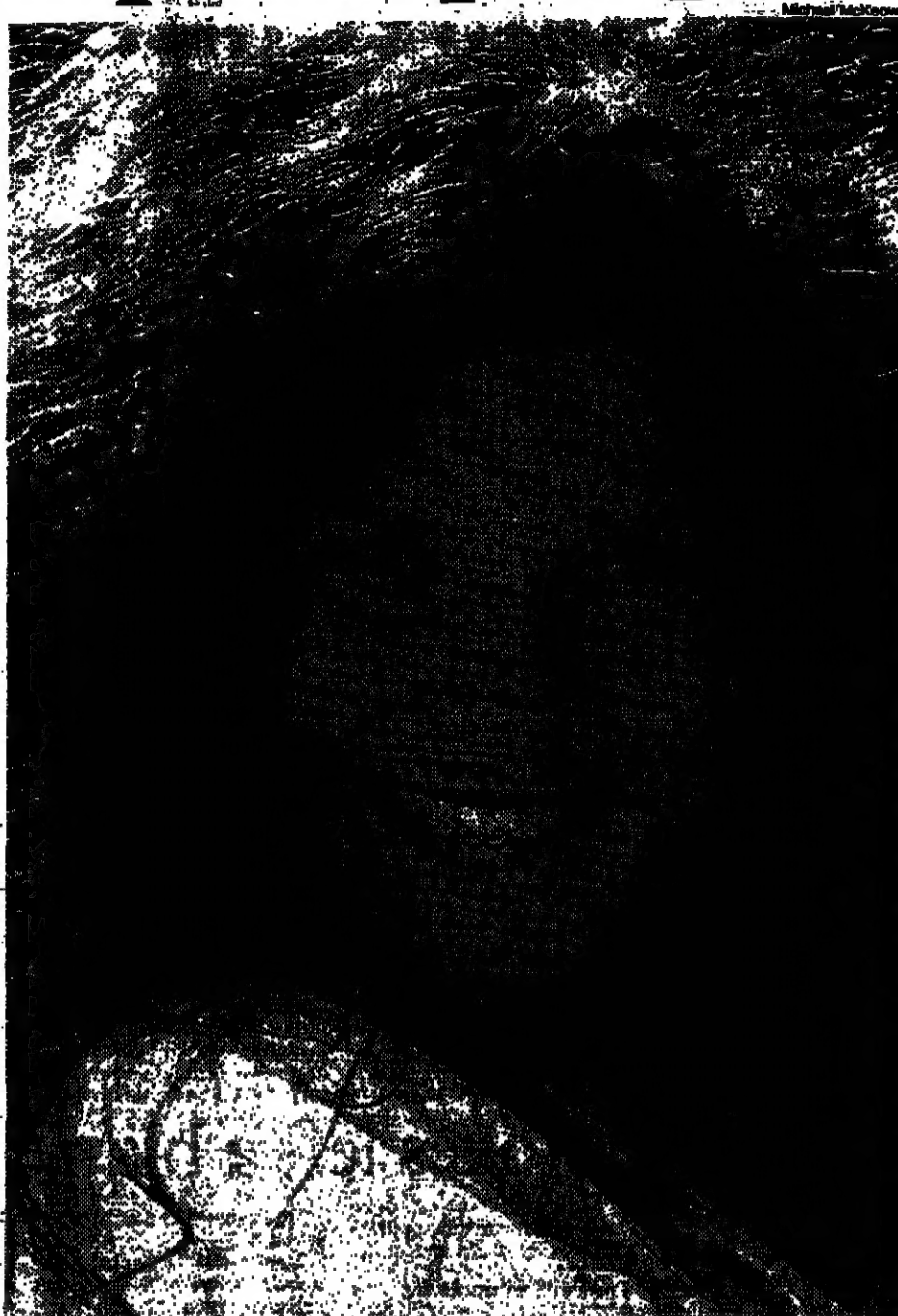
Venice, Rome, Paris, Mannheim and Vienna. Oct 3-June 1987. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1. (01-928 3191, credit cards 01-928 8800).

LAST CHANCE

BRITISH INTERNATIONAL PRINT BIENNALE: Selection from Britain's most exciting print exhibition held in Bradford. Ends tomorrow. Victoria & Albert Museum, South Kensington, London SW7 (01 589 6371).

For ticket availability, performance and opening times, telephone the numbers listed. Films: Geoff Brown; Theatre: Tony Patrick and Martin Cropper; Rock & Jazz: Richard Williams; Opera: Hilary Finch; Dance: John Percival; Galleries: Sarah Jane Checkland; Concerts: Max Harrison; Bookings: Anne Whitehouse

The princess and a panto pumpkin



Imelda Staunton tells a good tale against herself. In younger, rounder days, when her now slender 5ft frame weighed in at 9 stone 11lb, she attempted to take to the air in Exeter as a repete Cinderella. As her partner in levitation strained to raise her to greater heights, a loud groan of sympathy came from the audience.

But worse was to follow. Persuaded by a fellow performer to delight a little girl in the foyer who was demanding to meet Cinderella, she approached the young supplicant and revealed her pantomime identity. The child, looking as though she was faced with a pumpkin rather than a fairy princess, burst into tears of disbelief. I, too, had difficulty in recognizing Imelda Staunton, only the morning after I had seen her play the leading role of Bess Bridges in the Royal Shakespeare Company's latest riotous production, *The Fair Maid of the West*. The two parts of Thomas Heywood's comic Elizabethan "panto" have been cut and cobbled together, with songs added to taste, and given the run-around of every aisle and gallery in Stratford's splendid new small theatre, the Swan.

On stage Miss Staunton's hair was kept tamed, in tune with her controlled, neat presence — ever ready to make great leaps in tone or motion but on her terms. Off stage, with pale skin and bright blue eyes, she was dwarfed by a savage abundance of pale russet hair, resplendent in its havoc like a trampled ripe harvest. The effect was rather like that of Janis Joplin playing Medusa.

Imelda Staunton is far prettier than was Janis Joplin and very much less socially venomous than Medusa, but if there was ever an actor with the range to play both of them it is she. Since leaving RADA in 1976 her roles have included Electra and St Joan in Exeter; an acclaimed Piaf in Nottingham; two stints as the nasally melodious Miss Adelaide in Richard Eyre's production of *Gypsy* and *Dolls*

roles have ranged from Cinderella to Piaf. Now it's her debut at Stratford

at the National, where she also played Lucy Lockitt in *The Beggar's Opera*, and the down-trodden Hannah in Ayckbourn's *A Chorus of Disapproval*, which brought her the Laurence Olivier award for best supporting actress. She appeared with Deborah Kerr in *The Corn is Green* and was the first woman ever to play Lucky in *Waiting for Godot*, in a production at the Midland's Art Centre. She also flexes her beautiful singing voice in a pub band run by the designer Bill Dudley, which goes under the guise name of Morris Minor and the Austin Sevens. No doubt she could easily change gear to give us Joplin's celebrated "Oh Lord won't you buy me a Mercedes Benz".

She learnt to change her voice at an early age. The daughter of immigrant Irish parents, she was sent to a London convent which gave all its charges education lessons.

These developed later into drama lessons. The young, "better" spoken Miss Staunton was encouraged to apply for drama school. She enjoyed a "truly wonderful couple of years at RADA", after which she was soon thrust into major roles. "Given that amount of responsibility early on made me work very hard. I thought I had to carry the can even if I wasn't very good at it."

When she played Electra the director, Richard Digby Day, who had taught her at drama school, added to her vocal range by sending her back to RADA for lessons to lower her pitch. When she played Piaf she practised the songs for 40 months. "After Piaf I thought I could do anything. 'Bluff is my middle name'."

she confesses. Though very critical of her own work and, by her own admission, a bad auditioner, she does exude an extrovert, humorous confidence. No doubt she has needed it to play Bess Bridges. Most of the rest of the cast have been at Stratford since February but she has just been brought in for this production, having recently been filming Dennis Potter's television series *The Singing Detective*, which stars Michael Gambon. Her first week at Stratford was a bit like going to university. "She could not socialize with other members of the cast in the evening because they were in other productions so I bribed them to be my friends with a party."

She greatly enjoys working with Trevor Nunn. "Trevor's very good with a company. He's wonderful on text and wonderful on showbusiness and puts them together." *The Fair Maid of the West*, which she admits is great entertainment rather than a great play, gives ample scope for both qualities. The company obviously enjoy it. "Everyone's got a good slice of the play."

Married to the actor and sometime comic magician, Jim Carter, who was also in *Gypsy* and *Dolls* and the *Singing Detective*, Imelda Staunton is understanding and appreciative of her fellow professionals. Her favourite actor is Michael Gambon: "He's what I think acting is about. He has the ability to think it's a bloody good laugh and be brilliant, has great respect for the piece and great disrespect."

Ten years since her first job playing Goldoni's *The Mistress of the Inn* at the Swan in Worcester, Imelda Staunton finds herself playing the mistress of another inn in another Swan theatre. It is a great opportunity for her to show again that she can both be brilliant and have a good laugh.

Andrew Hislop

The Fair Maid of the West opens on Tues at the Swan, Stratford-upon-Avon (0789 295623), in repertory.

ARTS DIARY

Barred bard?

To be, or not to be? That is the question surrounding the future of the Globe Theatre at Southwark.

Despite an outright victory in the High Court earlier this year which allowed American actor/manager Sam Wanamaker to triumph over Southwark Council — they wanted to use his South Bank site for housing — the decision as to whether the theatre can actually be built has landed back in the council's hands. This is because Wanamaker's original planning application, to build a reproduction of Shakespeare's theatre, ran out of time, so he has to re-apply. And Southwark Council just so happens to be the planning authority to which he has to apply. Wanamaker says the council is itself out of time and therefore the Department of the Environment will have overall responsibility for settling the argument. I estimate it has so far cost Wanamaker 17 years of his life, and the council £9 million — in buying the land to thwart Wanamaker among other things — to reach this impasse.

Yes, no photo

Contributing if not artistically then at least materially to the art of photography, the Duke of York will be hanging about a West End street this morning while a plaque is unveiled on the wall of the Photographer's Gallery. Through his good offices Dr Hacking Wong of Halina Camera, has contributed £250,000 towards the purchase of a home for contemporary photography. Afterwards York will host a lunch for 200 at the Law Society to thank Dr Wong for his kindness, but although all eyes will be on the flame-haired Duchess there is a rigid rule: no cameras.

Don't say he doesn't explore the boundaries of art: David Hockney is currently at work using an entirely new artistic medium. It is the photocopier.

Luce talk

With all the arty begging bowls being polished following Richard Luce's chilling statement on Arts Council cuts last week, the Medici Quartet have come up with a spiffing wheeze: after their performance at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on October 7, they intend to auction off the entire quartet of Beethoven. Sponsors will

have their name attached to a particular quartet each time the Medici plays it over the next three or four years. Curiously the going rate depends on the quartet: there's a £1,500 minimum on Op 18, but a £3,500 minimum on Op 127. The Medici's explanation is zany. "Some are more difficult than others to perform" but they are serious in their intent. "We hope to raise £40,000 which will then be matched pound for pound by the Government."

Court short

In 10 days' time the English Stage Company will celebrate 30 years at the Royal Court Theatre. But for how much longer will they be there? Their lease on the Sloane Square building, perched in a conveniently noisy tube station, ends in 1990 and there are dark mutterings within the company that they should move to a more contemporary (ie, cheaper) spot. The current whim is for a warehouse in fashionable Covent Garden.

Christopher Wilson

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